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DIT:Students Union

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Union must remain independent

Fitzpatrick responds to management criticism

By Dermot Keyes

The management of DITSU Ltd. has called on DITSU Council to avail of the experience and knowledge of the Union's long term employees following this year's problematic RAG Week.

But outgoing DITSU President Marguerite Fitzpatrick said that decisions of a financial nature relating to the running of DITSU-organised events should exclusively remain the responsibility of students.

In a statement to DITSU Council, the Union board of directors and the DIT Independent, all five Union managers called on Council "to implement structures that will be inclusive of Management, where financial decisions are being taken as a preventative measure for future years".

Gabrielle Dalton (Cathal Brugha Street), Ann Pouch (Kevin Street), Vivienne Byrne (Mountjoy Square), Ellen McGlynn (Aungier Street) and Orla Cassin (Bolton Street) described the decision to host this year's RAG Ball on February 14 as "disastrous".

The statement reads: "As long term employees of DITSU Limited it saddens us that yet again for another year we have almost nothing to give to our chosen charities, which also brings us to the shameful disaster of DITSU to date the 'DITSU Rag Ball' held in The Point Depot....When the whole idea of an Overall Ball in the Point Depot was suggested, the management team advised against the idea as a similar venture last year



Outgoing DITSU President Marguerite Fitzpatrick said that decisions of a financial nature relating to the running of DITSU-organised events should exclusively remain the responsibility of students

failed ... we wish to stress that the management team have years of experience yet they have no input when it comes to overall financial decisions."

Management fears that the financial failures of both the Halloween Ball of last year and this year's RAG Ball, with both events running losses of over 120,000 when combined, could be repeated in the future.

Ms. Fitzpatrick admitted that the financial failure of RAG Week and its repercussions for future such ventures constituted "a difficult area" for both the Union and its long-term management to address.

"I understand that the staff represent the continuity in the company and that they are the long-term employees of the Union, but at the end of the day the Students' Union must continue to be run by students. They [the management] are not the decision makers."

Ms Fitzpatrick continued: "We are the representatives of DIT students at DITSU Council and we are its decision-makers."

"That's the way it should be and that's the way it will always be."

The statement from the union managers urged DITSU Council "to implement structures which will be inclusive of management, where financial decisions are being taken as a preventative measure for future years".

Common ground and a stronger voice for the Union's long-term management can be found, according to Ms. Fitzpatrick.

"Their (management's) opinions have been taken on board in the past and will continue to be taken on board in the future."

"They could be granted a vote in the board of directors and that is something that we are currently looking into."

But Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that all major policies relating to DITSU should remain the exclusive domain of its Class Representatives, Councillors and Executive members, to implement.



Guest speaker Jimmy Magee chats about his long career in sport at the recently held DIT Sports Awards. See more photographs and story in our sports pages

Students unhappy with DITSU - survey

A SURVEY conducted for the *DIT Independent* has revealed widespread dissatisfaction among DIT students with respect to the activities of their students union in the past academic year.

The survey of 250 students across the Institute's five principal sites makes for uncomfortable reading for all but one of the DITSU site presidents, but there was particular disapproval for the Overall Presidency of Marguerite Fitzpatrick.

When asked whether they were happy with the performance of their President during the year, just over 80% of those questioned voiced their disapproval at her term, much of this perhaps owing to the financial loss incurred by this year's RAG Ball.

But Ms. Fitzpatrick is far from alone in finding the disapproval of students in the survey.

Only one of the DITSU site presidents fared well when

students were asked were they happy with the performance of their president over the course of 2001/2002.

Bolton Street's Neil Cromien received a 72% approval rating with Kevin Street's Des Alvey faring second best with a 44% rating.

John McKenna of Cathal Brugha Street came next with 32%, Karl Bonnar of Aungier Street was believed to have performed his duties well by only 30% of respondents in Aungier Street, while Mountjoy Square president Joe Murphy fared worst of all with 28% approval.

Ms. Fitzpatrick's highest approval rating across the five sites was 32%, recorded at Kevin Street, with a low of 10% satisfaction polled at Cathal Brugha Street.

The survey was conducted by persons independent of DITSU between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. on Monday April 22 and was also conducted on a gender

respected breakdown.

Editorial Comment: The survey comes at the end of a year that the Union will largely wish to forget, primarily for the financial losses recorded during RAG Week.

But the good news received as we went to press regarding the long overdue green lighting of Grangegorman leads one to suggest that had a similar poll been carried out with this knowledge in mind, the results would not have been as frighteningly poor as they transpired to be.

But nonetheless, an at-a-glance view at the thoughts of DIT students should keep the incoming executive on their toes a little more come the resumption of activities in September.



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The Overall View

Well we've come to the end of the year and the last edition of this year's DIT Independent. So I'm going to write down some of my thoughts, feelings and opinions on the year and what I've learnt from it.

Straight up I have to say that it's been a great experience this year as Overall President of the Students Union. It has at all times been challenging, eye-opening and I don't think I'll ever learn so much in one year ever again. Having said that I'm glad it's coming to an end. It's been a very tough year for DITSU Ltd and DITSU Trading Ltd; I suppose every year is a tough year in this kind of job! Many people will remember this year for the disaster that was the RAG Ball in the Point depot. Some people can't believe that I haven't resigned as a result of the money lost; I say to those people that at this stage I don't care what they think, I will walk away from this job holding my head high. I know that I did a good job this year and that I gave it my all, I know this and that's all that matters at the end of the day!!! Students said on numerous occasions that they'd go to the Ball and in the end they didn't, it's as simple as that. Would my resigning bring back the £71,000? No it wouldn't, so I'm going to continue to do the job that the students elected me to do until the end of June.

To the hundreds of students that I've helped, you're very welcome, especially those of you who actually said thanks. I used to be very enthusiastic about doing a job that's thankless because in the end I can and do make a difference. However there is only so much criticism and constant abuse one can take without ever getting a pat on the back. So now my enthusiasm has waned and my spirit and love for it all has all but gone. I don't have that innocent and naïve belief anymore that even though you can never keep everyone happy it's still worthwhile. I wish I could still feel like that, like I did when I first got involved. My experience over the last year has taught me otherwise; I guess it has turned me quite cynical unfortunately.

I would also like to draw people's attention to the fact that the Students Union is run by students and always will be. Accept it! If you can't then get out, you won't ever be able to change this, I hope. Perhaps you never should have gotten involved in the first place? It's the nature of democracy, one may not like it, and one may feel it doesn't work but that's life in the Students Union. I also feel, and this is just my personal opinion, that DITSU has always benefited from being a member of USI and I hope with all my heart that it will continue to do so. If there are problems with USI then they can only be changed from within... Best of luck Colm!

Perhaps if I'd spent the year guzzling free beer, having late nights and even later mornings then this piece would be very different. I however chose to actually do the job and take it seriously, so my final address is not one of stories of partying and abusing my position but of what the experience is like if you attempt to do it right.

Thanks to DIT for my degree (even if it is a Trinity one), thanks to Ross, Maura, David, Anita and all the gang in Rathmines. A very special thanks to my friends and family for all the support and most of all to John for always being there, it's nearly over hun!

Good luck Hugh, God knows you'll need it!
Tabhair aire gach duine,
Marguerite Fitzpatrick
DITSU 1996-2002

At last! DIT Grangeegorman gets go-ahead

As this newspaper was being finalised before going to press, news broke that agreement has finally been reached by DIT and the Department of the Taoiseach in relation to the future establishment of a north side campus at Grangeegorman.

The news was greeted with widespread approval, with DIT President Brendan Goldsmith happy to relay the good news from government to outgoing DITSU President Marguerite Fitzpatrick.

Details relating to the commencement of construction work for the new campus and the date upon which the campus will be operative for students have yet to be officially finalised and presumably a little more light will have shed on the matter by the time the DIT Independent reaches the many foyers of this Institute.

But one is safe in assuming that staff and students alike will agree that the announcement by the Government on April 23 is one that will receive universal agreement and cannot be but welcomed.

But (there's always a but) one

Dermot Keyes welcomes the realisation of DIT Grangeegorman but cannot help but wonder could it be just another masterstroke by Bertie Ahern.

cannot help but wonder that in this election year have we witnessed the latest act in a long line of such populist decision making by the most cunning and clever of them all? With the May poll looming, Bertie Ahern has pulled another political masterstroke, given that the new campus will also involve a role for the local community on the campus both in terms of educational link-ups and employment.

So has the Taoiseach delayed the timing of the new campus purely as an election ploy?

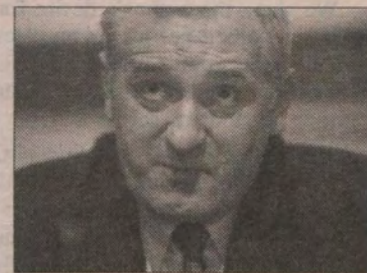
Quite possibly, but the most important aspect of this whole development is that DIT will soon find itself in a position to move even closer to fulfilling the ambition of its hierarchy in elevating to University status.

With the Institute awarding its first degrees this year independent-

ly of Trinity College, its first major step forward as an independent third level body has already been made.

The provision of a centralised south side campus in Aungier Street is nearing completion and it would not be too prophetic to believe that the Rathmines and Mountjoy Square sites will be vacated within the next five to 10 years, therefore further centralising the Institute.

On a practical basis, DIT will finally be in a position to co-ordinate its sporting activities thanks to the sports fields that come with the Grangeegorman site and will undoubtedly serve to increase the Institute's ability to challenge its intervarsity counterparts from a vastly improved foundation. On a purely atmospheric standpoint, the view has often been made to this



Bertie Ahern has pulled another political masterstroke

reporter and to other students of DIT on the lack of a 'buzz' that being part of a campus generates.

A better sense of craic and excitement in a larger college site can only prove a good point to the Student Union and Clubs and Societies officers of the future in a bid to reverse the apathy which seems to have blighted students of the Institute in recent years.

And to think it could be all down to be a cute hoor-ish activity on behalf of our outgoing (and likely to be retuning) Taoiseach. Good old Bertie seems to have struck again.

O'Reilly to lead DITSU in 2002/2003

Hugh O'Reilly was elected President of the DIT Students Union for the next academic year after he stood unopposed for the Union's highest position in the March poll. From a total poll of 1985 votes, O'Reilly gained 1558 'yes' votes for his candidature, thereby easily surpassing the quota of 974 votes. Three hundred and eighty eight students voted 'no' for his candidacy.

The following persons were elected across the DIT sites to serve the Union during 2002/2003.

Aungier Street – President: Paul Malone; Deputy President: Joe Savage;

Clubs and Societies: Colin Saunders; P.R.O.: Will Kinsella; Ents: Jenny McGowan.

Kevin Street – President: Cathal Gallagher; Deputy President: Lyndsey Jones; Clubs and Societies: Nicky Cunningham; Participations: Alan Keane; Equality Officer: Gina Daly; Ents: Peter Bennett; P.R.O.: Amy Cahill;

Irish Language: Roisin Langford.

Cathal Brugha Street – President: Stephen Boyle (unopposed) elected after a by-election was held on April 17. No one stood for the office on the day of the full elections. Ents: Phillip Gannon.

Mountjoy Square/Rathmines – President: Brian Whitney.

Rathmines – Placement Officer: Ailish Moran; Irish Language: Shonaigh Ni Raghallaigh; Equality: Ciaran Bowe.

Bolton Street – President: Darren McArdle; Deputy President: Naoimh McNamee; Clubs and Societies: Francis Fox; Equality Officer: Bob Coggins.

The only contentious aspect of the election occurred in the aftermath of the vote in DIT Kevin Street, when Marc Murphy, who had lost to Lyndsey Jones, issued a series of objections to Ms. Jones' victory on the grounds of irregularities. He made these claims in a written submission to the Electoral Supervisory Committee of DITSU

during the Easter holidays. In a letter addressed to ESC Chairman Dermot Quain obtained by the DIT Independent had obtained, Murphy said he had made eight separate complaints to the ESC in relation to what he believed were breaches of ESC regulations. In the letter, Murphy said he believed his chances of winning the election were greatly hampered due to the fact that "effectively she was paid by DITSU to run her (election) campaign. I understand that this is a very gray issue but while I am required to remove campaign posters from the students union area; it is quite acceptable for her to be campaigning in that vicinity because it is her place of work ... Ms. Lyndsey Jones is one of eleven sabbatical officers directly responsible for the loss of £71,000 because of the Rag Ball. As she was the only sabbatical to run again for elections, this was something I wasn't allowed to remark upon".

Following a meeting of the ESC



Hugh O'Reilly was elected President of the DITSU

to discuss the matter, it was decided that Ms. Jones had not been in breach of any of the election guidelines as decreed in DITSU elections and her victory on March 13 was upheld.

"Wednesday vote deterred students" claims Owen



USI's Conor Griffin, who claimed the holding of the abortion referendum resulted from a "lethal concoction of arrogance, ignorance and electioneering" from the Government

By Aoife Stokes

FINE Gael deputy leader Nora Owen has told the DIT Independent that the holding of the abortion referendum on a Wednesday had prevented many students from voting in the constituencies where they were registered.

This issue was also raised by the Labour Party's Eamonn Gilmore, who said that whilst there could be no "glib answer" to the question of voter apathy nationwide, the reality of holding the vote on a Wednesday would have prevented many stu-

dents from voting. The national turnout was just under 43% with the largest numbers turning out to vote in the Dublin constituencies, all 11 of which returned a strong No vote.

Voters in the Taoiseach's constituency of Dublin Central voted against the proposal - a total of 59 per cent in his constituency rejecting the amendment. The constituency of Dún Laoghaire, achieved a 53.15 per cent turnout - the country's highest - with 31,476 (68.23 per cent) saying No and 14,653 (31.77 per cent) Yes.

This was in stark contrast to the result in Donegal North-East, which recorded a Yes vote of over 70% but attracted just over a third of all eligible voters.

Just one week before the referendum was held the Union of Students of Ireland (USI) released a statement advocating a No vote and raising concerns about holding the vote on a Wednesday. Challenging the Taoiseach and the Attorney General to debate the issue with him, USI's Communication Executive Conor Griffin said, "This referendum results from a lethal concoction of arro-

gance, ignorance and electioneering from the current Government. Continued calls for public debate on the issue have been turned down so that the issue does not become 'party political'".

The referendum had proposed to make it illegal for a woman who is suicidal to procure an abortion in Ireland.

It has been legal for a woman in Ireland who is suicidal to have an abortion since the Supreme Court judgement in the "X" case in 1999.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I refer to your article 'DIT students in political vacuum' in the DIT Independent of February 2002.

We share the author's desire for greater political dialogue, albeit not just in an election year. Indeed, we welcome applications from political societies for activities, which will foster dialogue and debate among all students across DIT.

The DIT Cultural and Social Committee works actively with students, staff and DITSU to support a wide variety of student activities across DIT. We endeavour to ensure that the student experience embraces the full life, including the visual, creative and performing arts, athletics and sport, clubs and societies, community service and the whole range of activities that makes life worth living.

All students are encouraged to form societies and join activities that interest them.

Students interested in forming a society should apply directly to their campus Cultural and Social Council for funding. Only fifteen members are needed to form a society. The overall DIT committee is especially supportive of societies and activities which reach beyond a single campus, and encourage participation and activities from students from across DIT. Information about setting up a society and/or funding an event is available from your Students Union or contact the DIT Societies Organizer, at tel. 402 7844.

Higher education depends upon learning from each other, students and staff. The greater the exposure to different ideas, perspectives and experiences, the richer the learning and educational experience. The more diverse the academic community, the more significant and beneficial for all.

Sincerely,

Dr Ellen Hazelkorn

Director, Faculty of Applied Arts

Chairperson, DIT Cultural and Social Committee

The full statement by the DIT Management Team

To: All members of DIT Council

From: Ditsu Management Team

Cc. Board of Directors

Cc. D.I.T. Independent

Within the five colleges we have all come to the end of what we sure will prove right across the board to have been a disastrous Rag Week.

As long term employees of Ditsu Limited it saddens us that yet again for another year we have almost nothing to give to our chosen charities which also brings us to the shameful disaster of Ditsu to date the 'Ditsu Rag Ball' held in The

Point Depot on 14th February 2002.

The Management Team of Ditsu Limited wish to make the following statement.

When the whole idea of an overall Ball in The Point Depot was suggested the Management Team advised against the idea as a similar venture last year failed. At this point we wish to stress that the Management Team have years of experience yet they have no input when it comes to overall financial decisions.

Unfortunately Ditsu could find itself in the same position in the future, if the experience and knowledge of the Management

Team is not taken into consideration. We believe that such decisions can expose yourselves and your fellow students to unnecessary high risk.

We urge you as Council to implement structures that will be inclusive of Management, where financial decisions are being taken as a preventative measure for future years.

Signed: Gabrielle Dalton, Cathal Brugha Street Union Manager; Ann Pouch, Kevin Street Union Manager; Vivienne Byrne, Mountjoy Square Union Manager; Ellen McGlynn, Aungier Street Union Manager.

Clarification

In a letter sent to the DIT Independent (which was too long for publication), Jarlath Molloy wished to point out that comments attributed to him in our lead story last month were written as an ordinary student of DIT rather than as a representative of DITSU.

He also states that DITSU had adopted a neutral stance as opposed to not having a policy on the abortion referendum.

While he wrote that the Editor was incorrect in his stating such a claim, Dermot Keyes stands over his editorial, as he believes that a neutral policy was a kop-out on the Union's behalf given the nature of the topic in question.

The Editor wishes to point out that he was present at the meeting where this

motion was debated and was fully aware of the decision taken on the evening in question.

Mr Molloy writes: "People have for a long time now been complaining about the content- or lack thereof and the poor quality of the journalism".

The Editor would like to state that Mr Molloy's letter was the only such letter of complaint he received in relation to the standard of journalism over the course of the entire academic year from a potential readership of 23,000.

Comments from Mr. Molloy's letter were used in our lead story for the purposes of balance and fairness since no one from the DITSU Executive was willing to comment on the repercussions of the RAG Ball.

His comments were used as the Editor believed that the lead story required as impartial and objective a treatment as was possible for such a contentious issue as the RAG Ball. Given Mr. Molloy's association and long-standing work as both a Class Representative and as a member of committees during the past year, his were the only comments that the DIT Independent received from a pro-DITSU perspective.

Had these comments not been used, then the report would have been unbalanced and would have left this paper open to the accusation that it is anti-DITSU, which it is not. The DIT Independent regrets any inconvenience caused to Mr. Molloy by the use of these comments.

Best of Luck in the exams and thanks for your continued custom

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DIT Awards at National Apprentice Competition

On Friday April 12 the Annual Awards Ceremony for the Department of Education & Science National Apprentice Competitions was held at DIT Bolton Street. The Graphic Design Final was held at the NCAD over a three-day period last month (March).

DIT students from both the Mountjoy Square and Bolton Street sites took part together with students from CIT and NCAD. Finalists were selected on the basis of their performance in the Preliminary one-day test held earlier in the year at participating colleges.

Clifton Rooney, a third year VisComm student on the Design Degree course at DIT Mountjoy Square claimed first prize. Another DIT student, Barry Sheehan, on the Graphic Reproduction Diploma course at DIT Bolton Street, took second place. The award winners also received substantial cash prizes from D.O'Sullivan Graphic Supplies Ltd. sponsors of the annual graphic design event. The National Apprentice Competitions take place on an annual basis from which potential competitors are selected for the International Competitions. The 37th World Skills Competition will be held in St Gallen, Switzerland in June 2003. The Ireland team performed superbly at the 36th World Skills event in Seoul, Korea in 2001, coming home with a gold and bronze medal as well as ten Diplomas of Excellence.

Mountjoy student fries up jumbo-sized story!

By Seán Fay

A DIT student became a national celebrity last week, after his love for sausages saw him lose his part-time job at Dunnes Stores but gain 634 in compensation.

Gary Hughes 20, who studies marketing at DIT Mountjoy Square, was sacked from his job working at the deli counter at Dunnes Stores, Portmarnock last summer for taking too many cocktail sausages for his lunch.

Hughes usually bought four jumbo sausages for his lunch and had the receipt signed by a manager. On the day he was suspended there were no jumbo sausages for sale, a co-worker said he could take three cocktail sausages per jumbo sausage. Gary took 11 cocktail sausages but when he went to get the receipt signed, he was suspended and sent home by a manager who said he should have only taken eight cocktail sausages.

Three days later he was brought in for a meeting and sacked for taking the three extra cocktail sausages, which were valued at 38 cent. Gary decided to fight the case and just minutes before taking Dunnes to the employment appeals tribunal, Dunnes agreed to pay him 634 in compensation.

A reporter for The Irish

Times was present when Dunnes paid over the compensation and printed details of the story on April 18. In the following days a media frenzy followed. "The Sun, The Star, the Herald, RTÉ and Spin FM all got in touch, I thought all the coverage was funny and mad," said Hughes. He admitted that he was the centre of attention when he arrived in Mountjoy Square the following day, as photographs of Gary posing with sausages accompanied details of the story in both The Sun and The Star.

"Most of the people in my class thought it was hilarious and gave me a good slagging, and it got worse because after a lecture Spin FM rang and everyone in the class was cheering and screaming at me while I was being interviewed." Gary's case highlights the benefit of the recent link-up established between SIPTU and the USI. As he was a member of USI, SIPTU agreed to take up his case and Gary thinks the compensation and the media coverage has helped clear his name in his hometown of Portmarnock.

"Loads of people have been coming up to me and saying how deadly it was to see someone like me get the compensation," he said.

DIT Independent

Good news concludes DIT year

Our going to press meant this edition was unable to cover the announcement of the official handover of the Grangegorman site to DIT as so desired. But one is delighted to see that the Institute's ambitions towards attaining University status have taken such a positive step following a year which was hardly a public relations dream for DIT.

Problems relating to management saw dirty linen washed by the Dail Public Accounts Committee, the Irish Times saw fit to devote two pages of its Education and Living supplement where it catalogued the problems that have befallen the Institute in the past few months. A lack of identity was cited as one such problem in the report, but one feels that the soon-to-be realised south side campus at Aungier Street, to be followed by its north side counterpart in Grangegorman will help create and engender an identity and an affinity that DIT students are currently devoid of. As well as forming the latest in a long line of time honoured pre-election good news declarations, the news will also help divert some of the flak that has hit DITSU since the financial difficulties of the RAG Ball first came to light. Given that the permanent management of the Union feel they should form a practical role in the future financial decision making of DITSU, one feels that their views should be more represented and considered than has been the case to date.

The lessons for next year's Union under the presidency of Hugh O'Reilly are clear. One: listen to the students or do a little more to make them hear your voice; two: think a little more and take on board the advice of those who have borne witness to one financial fiasco too many in recent years and finally three: engage the students of DIT in the political process by inviting political leaders to come and speak in our Institute. If the events of the recent Presidential election in France are to be considered, we in Ireland must be careful not to follow suit and engage in the political process at least a little more than we already do as students. Realistic targets are required to restore the credibility of a Union which has taken a battering for the past two years.

An appreciation: thanks to you all

The evenings are getting longer, the finger nails are getting shorter (damn those exams!) and the prospect of becoming tax payers for any of those unfortunates in final year is almost a relief. Just one more big push during the exams that lie ahead and all thoughts of academia can be pushed to the wayside – well, unless you're already contemplating a Master's!

"It's been a delight and a great honour of mine to edit this newspaper for the 11 editions that have been published since January 2001. During that time, I've seen the good, the bad and sometimes the ugly aspect of both student and newsroom politics. I

here has been good news and bad news, perhaps not of equal measure to report, but of equal relevance and importance to report upon. None of this could have done without the help and assistance of the section editors and contributors who have worked so well and so diligently throughout the year.

To Aisling Casey, thank you for your thoroughness and unflinching dedication; to Janice Gaffey, thank you for your good eye for both a feature and a photo; to Laurence Mackin for making the ents pages so diverse, lively and amusing and to Miguel Delaney 'gracias' for his sporting wit and observation. And a big, big thank you to Aoife Stokes, with whom it was nothing short of a pleasure to work alongside from first day 'til last. "Finally, to DITSU's General Manager Maura Cunningham, thank you for all your encouragement and support during tough times. Mile míle buíochas!

"To whoever gets the pleasure of the occasional rant in these pages next year: enjoy it, take the good with the bad and have a bit of fun! Thanks to all who in whatever way, big or small, made the DIT Independent the newspaper it was for the past 11 issues."

Dermot Keyes

It is the policy of the DIT Independent to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. An corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DIT Independent to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students' Union.

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DIT graduate elected USI President

By Aoife Stokes

COLM Jordan, the outgoing education officer of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), who also served as DITSU president of the Aungier Street campus in 1999/2000 will lead USI as its President next year. Jordan received 106 votes from delegates at USI's annual conference, which was held in Ennis, having exceeded the quota by 33 votes.

His fellow nominees for the position, Avril Power and Derek Scanlon, received only one vote each.

Jordan assumes the office of President from July 1st and will take up the reins of the body during a period when it is dogged by criticism from colleges threatening to disaffiliate themselves from USI.

University College Dublin have been the most recent complainants and boycotted the union's annual conference because northern colleges had been granted full voting rights even though they do not pay fees to USI.

Speaking to the DIT Independent after the election results, Jordan said there were "mixed messages" from UCD but "if any students have issues with USI, I would have no problem with meeting with them to discuss whatever concerns they might have".



Colm Jordan assumes the office of President from July 1st

One of the incoming president's first aims in office is to formulate a generic campaign pack for local SU officers around the country.

This pack, which would consist of a floppy disk, would contain a prototype policy paper, submission document and other templates.

"Local SU officers, rather than getting tied up in trying to come up with these items themselves, will be free to purely campaign," he said.

The elimination of the

annual college capitation fee will feature highly on his presidential agenda. Jordan believes that its elimination, a cost that exists despite the abolition of third level fees exists "purely to cover administrative costs".

According to Jordan the fee is "yet another barrier in the quest for equal access to third level education for all."

One of his main arguments for abolishing the fee is the need to sustain a highly skilled work force to continue Ireland's economic

growth.

It can be argued that Jordan's election, as president will restrict his ability as an active and highly public campaigner since he first began his USI career in 1998.

It was in his second year of studies in DIT, that he became local area officer for the USI which, he asserts makes him USI's longest serving officer ever when he becomes acting president on 1st July next.

Asked would he consider a career in the political sphere after his presidency, Jordan is initially dismissive of such a notion.

The options of a job in the bank or other such careers that would best suit his business qualification await his consideration.

But the possibility of engaging in national politics is one of the few ways that he could vent his desire to implement change in society.

"I have been approached by all the mainstream political parties during his career in student politics," he said. Jordan does not profess a party preference.

Colm Jordan begins his term as President of USI on July 1st next when the current President of the Union, Richard Hammond, officially steps down.

Lecturers receive academic awards

Three DIT lecturers have made successful applications to the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), Government of Ireland Senior Academic Research Schemes for the next academic year. Dr. John Gilmartin, School of Art, Design and Printing received a Senior Research Fellowship, while Carmel Gallagher and Máire Mhic Mhathúna, School of Social Sciences were awarded Senior Research Scholarships.

Dr. John Gilmartin's brief as a Research Fellow is to record, research, interpret, and try to save Irish convent art and design heritage. This heritage consists of important buildings, paintings, stained glass and furniture, which is rapidly disappearing. The research will entail numerous visits to all parts of the country, as well as many long hours trawling through archives and library documentation so as to create a valuable record of the patrons of and the cultural artefacts still in existence.

The Senior Research Scholarship will allow Máire Mhic Mhathúna to concentrate on completing her doctoral degree entitled; 'Narrative as vehicle for second language acquisition: learning Irish in an early years setting.' This is a study of how children acquire Irish as a second language during story-telling sessions in a naíonra or Irish pre-school. The results of the study will be relevant to

young immigrant learners who must learn English as an additional language and to language acquisition in general.

Carmel Gallagher's study will investigate the participation of older people in their communities, and aims to develop a classification of older people based on this participation.

The study will examine the interdependencies, social networks and social role of older people. It is based in one particular geographical community in Dublin and will use ethnographic and survey methods. The scholarship will enable Carmel to undertake a period of more intensive fieldwork and analysis.

All three received the academic awards based on the judgement of a Board of International Assessors.

The judging process was extremely tough with each application also been reviewed by an academic expert outside the Republic of Ireland who was asked to furnish a written evaluation to the Board on each submission.

"The International Board of Assessors informed the Council that the overall standard of applications was very high and the consequent competition very keen," said Marc Caball, Director of IRCHSS

DIT bullying policy launched

A NEW policy on preventing and dealing with bullying and harassment in DIT was launched on the March 6 in Mount Street. The new policy aims to promote an Institute free of bullying and harassment (including sexual harassment), ensuring all members of DIT staff are treated with dignity. Amongst those in attendance were the Governing Body of DIT, union officials, IBEC and students union representatives.

Speaking at the launch, DIT President, Dr. Brendan Goldsmith said the new policy "applies to all staff and students of the Institute, who have a duty and a responsibility to promote a work and study environment free of threat, harassment and intimidation". It replaces DIT's Policy on Preventing and Dealing with Sexual Harassment, which was published in October 1995. It has been updated to take account of legislative changes and is now in line with best practice in the area.

The new policy has the full support of the management and the Governing Body of DIT.

Specially trained staff, who will be on hand to help anyone who may be victims of any such behaviour, are available to explain and implement the policies incorporated in the report.

The Institute will also provide ongoing training for staff members through workshops for developing awareness about bullying and harassment and the provision of teams to take part in formal investigations should the need arise.

FOCUS ON ... REFERENDUM FALLOUT

Confusion reigned during contentious campaign

Bertie Ahern's controversial abortion referendum was defeated by a majority of just under one per cent. What was a divisive campaign from start to finish failed at any stage to seriously address the reality of the 7,000 women who travel to Britain each year to have abortions. Aoife Stokes reflects on a controversial campaign

On March 6th the Irish people voted by a majority of less than one per cent to reject the Government's proposed 25th Amendment of the Constitution (Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Bill), 2001. The latest proposal on abortion had been rejected by a majority of just 10,556 votes.

In a clammy room in the Customs House, journalists and politicians had spent the afternoon speculating on the outcome. Once announced both anti-abortion and pro-choice groups claimed victory with Independent MEP Dana Rosemary Scallon and Labour Party Leader Ruairi Quinn proclaiming wins for the 'pro-life' and Alliance for a No Vote (ANV) pro-choice group respectively.

At the Dublin count centre in the RDS, representatives of the Socialist Worker's Party whooped in joy as it became clear that all 11 constituencies in the capital's environs had rejected the referendum. Members of Youth Defence delivered their own claims of "victory for the unborn child". Gardaí were forced to intervene, as the two groups became energetically engaged in discussion. The amendment's wording left both right-wing anti-abortion groups and liberal pro-choice groups hopeful of the same result.

"Murdering bitch" spat one member of Youth Defence as he passed Ivana Bacik, a spokesperson for the ANV and a lecturer in law at Trinity College Dublin. Her Trinity colleague Professor William Binchy, who heads the pro-life movement and had been advocating a Yes vote was notably absent. The campaign's defining moment came when Deirdre de Barra told of her abortion after her baby was diagnosed with severe foetal abnormalities in the letters page of The Irish Times in the last week of the campaign.

The overall result illustrated the same urban-rural divide that was so evident in the 1995 Divorce referendum, which was also passed by a slim majority of just 9,114. The 25th Amendment of the Constitution (Pregnancy of Human Life in Pregnancy Bill), 2001 asked the people of Ireland to rule out the provision that the risk of suicide would be grounds for legal abortion in the State. There were two provisions within the Bill which would have provided a constitution-

al basis for a legislative approach to what the Government described as "the protection of human life in pregnancy".

Had the referendum been passed these provisions would have been inserted into the Constitution as Article 40.3.4 and 40.3.5. The proposed new subsection 4 would provide that the life of the unborn in the womb will be protected in accordance with the Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Act.

The other proposed subsection 5 would provide that any future proposal to amend or repeal the Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Act would have to be approved by the people in a referendum. The legislation proposed by the Government in the Bill set out a number of issues.

It proposed to redefine abortion in modern terms and reduce the existing penalty of life imprisonment to 12 years. The current legal prohibition on abortion contained in sections 58 and 59 of the Offences against the Person Act of 1861 would have been repealed.

It would have defined abortion as "the intentional destruction by any means of

unborn human life after implantation in the womb of a woman".

Right-wing anti-abortion lobby groups opposed this definition, believing there should be protection for unborn human life from the moment of conception. The Bill would also have excluded from the definition of abortion any medical procedure in the course of which the unborn human life is ended where it is necessary to do so in order to prevent a real and substantial risk of loss of the woman's life other than suicide. There were no implications in the Bill for the current freedom to travel or the right to information.

A decade after the controversial X case ruling, after four referenda on the issue the Irish electorate was once again asked to vote on the grounds to procure an abortion in this country. The reasoning given by the Government for putting this question to the Irish people yet again was the necessity to legislate for this issue in light of the Supreme Court ruling in the X case.

The case was taken by the then Attorney General Mr Harry Whelehan against a 14 year-old girl and her parents. The girl had been raped and

on disclosing this to her parents the rape was then reported to the Garda Síochána. The girl and her parents decided that she should travel to England to have an abortion.

The family informed the Garda Síochána that they had come to this decision in order to ascertain the impact of such an action on any subsequent charge of paternity on the perpetrator of the rape.

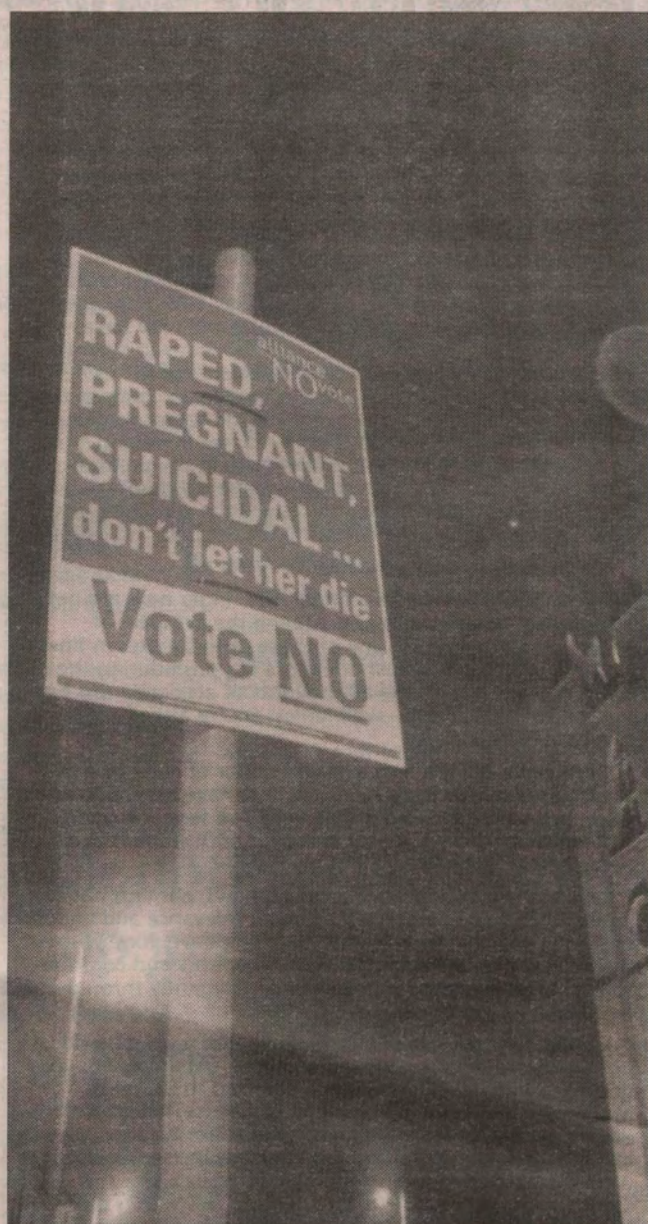
The Garda Síochána reported the intentions of the family to the Director of Public Prosecutions and he in turn communicated the information to the Attorney General.

On the February 7th, 1992, the AG obtained an order from the High Court restraining the girl and her parents from leaving the country. At this stage the girl and her family were already in England arranging for the abortion operation. When they were made aware of the injunction against them they returned to Ireland and appealed the High Court decision to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court found that abortion in Ireland could be legal where there was a real and substantive risk to the life of the mother including the threat of suicide. This in turn led to the proposed twelfth amendment to the Irish constitution, with over 62% voting against rendering abortion on the grounds of suicide illegal.

On March 5th 2002 the man found guilty of rape in the X case was sentenced to three and a half years for the kidnap and sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl. He was found guilty on two counts of sexual assault and one count of false imprisonment in the Dublin Circuit Criminal Court. The assault happened in 1999 after the girl hailed his taxi outside Donnycarney Church, Dublin, and asked him to drive her to the Ambassador Cinema in the city centre. The sentence came the day before the referendum which if passed would have legislated that any woman who is found trying to procure an abortion or trying to induce a miscarriage, regardless of her mental status, would be subject to a maximum sentence of 12 years imprisonment.

According to these figures released by the Irish Family Planning Association (along with the British Pregnancy



A decade after the controversial X case ruling, after four referenda on the issue the Irish electorate was once again asked to vote on the grounds to procure an abortion in this country

Advisory Service) over 50,000 women have travelled to England for abortions since 1992.

These figures are considered to be moderate estimates of the volume of Irish women who chose to travel for abortion. According to the Central Statistics Office, 64,000 babies were born in Ireland in the year 2000, which indicates that approximately 10% of Irish pregnancies are terminated in Britain.

There was a bemused attitude to the move in continental and American media circles, questioning the worth of rendering already conservative abortion provisions even more conservative.

"Pro-life, even in death" proclaimed international online journal Salon chose in their analysis of the referendum. In terms of the Government's motivation for going ahead with such a risky referendum so close to a general election, the theories

range from the seriously political to the bizarrely personal. According to Irish Independent political correspondent, Karl Brophy, it had been Bertie Ahern's mother's dying wish that the X case ruling be reverted. The question of the influence exerted by Government supported Independent TD's on the issue was also queried.

Both Harry Blaney and Mildred Fox had been seeking this referendum since agreeing to support the Government.

The precedent set by the X case has only been invoked once since that 1992 Supreme Court ruling, again in the case of a teenage rape victim in what became known as the C case. Despite the rejection of the amendment, one statistic has not changed. Nineteen women a day travel to Britain to procure an abortion.

The British solution to an Irish problem continues.



The case was taken by the then Attorney General Mr Harry Whelehan against a 14 year-old girl and her parents

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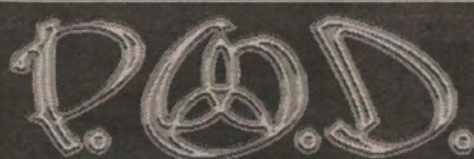


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THE STAR



UCD sweep board at O2 student media awards

UCD was the big winner at this year's Student Media Awards, which was held in Vicar Street on April 16. A night of drunken debauchery, enough speech making to even embarrass Halle Berry's scriptwriter and the usual arid wit of host Brendan O'Connor made it a memorable night for those successful and those who were not. (Shed a quiet tear for DIT! - Ed). The awards were sponsored by O2, the new name for Digifone.

The University Observer (UCD) claimed the best newspaper prize, with the College Tribune (UCD) Trinity News (TCD) and College View (DCU) also nominated. The Observer's Enda Curran took the news reporter award, ahead of Eoghan Rice of the College

Tribune (UCD), Jean O'Mahony of the Trinity News (TCD), Fergus O'Shea of the College Tribune (UCD) Mark Wehrly of the Tonic (NUI Maynooth) and John Kenny for Trinity News (TCD).

Other winners and nominees on the night were:

Radio Production

"Get That Monster Off The Stage" (Cork Campus Radio)

Also nominated:

Artbeat (Cork Campus Radio)

The Vibe (Belfield FM)

"Argh, With a Drop Of Stout" (DCU FM)

Comedy Talk Show Montage (DCU FM)

"Flags" (Cork Campus

Radio)

Television Production

"Regeneration" (DCU)

Also nominated:

"The Jimmy Cake" (Griffith College)

"Beyond Closed Doors" (DCU)

"Philomena's Cosy Night Time Corner" (DCU)

The O2 Award

Icarus (TCD)

Magazine or Society Publication

LHM (UCD)

Also nominated:

Ufouria (University of Ulster)



UCD celebrate an awards-laden night at Vicar Street with Mark Lee from O2 (back row centre)

Icarus (TCD)
Criterion (NUIG)

Website

ULSU (UL)

Also nominated:

SIN (NUIG)

TCDSU (TCD)

Belfield FM (UCD)

Features Writer

Johnny Ryan - LHM, Cogito (UCD)

Also nominated:

Dermot Keyes - DIT
Independent (DIT)

Eoghan Rice - College
Tribune (UCD)

Sorcha Ni Flainn - College
Tribune (UCD)

Seamus McHugh -
University Observer (UCD)

Eamonn O'Lionnain -
University Observer (UCD)

Journalist (National Press)

James McDonald (DCU)

Also nominated:

Paul Keane (DCU)

Eoghan Rice (UCD)

Alan Croghan (Ballyfermot)

Sports Writer

Paul Keane - College View
(DCU)

Also nominated:

Mick O'Keefe - College
Tribune (UCD)

Dermot Keyes - DIT
Independent (DIT)

Daniel McDonnell - College
Tribune (UCD)

Editor

Daniel McConnell -
University Observer (UCD)

Also nominated:

Johnny Ryan - LHM &
Cogito (UCD)

Carl Whyte - Trinity News
(TCD)

Eoghan Rice and Fergus
O'Shea - College Tribune
(UCD)

Photographer (News)

John Fitzgerald - Trinity
News (TCD)

Also nominated:

Heather Murphy - SIN
(NUIG)

Paul Tierney - University
Record (TCD)

Tony O'Donnell - University
Record (TCD)

Publication Layout

University Observer (UCD)

Also nominated:

Ufouria (University of
Ulster)

LHM (UCD)

Icarus (TCD)

Most Improved Publication or Production

College Tribune (UCD)

Also nominated:

Icarus (TCD)

An Focal (UL)

University Record (TCD)

Photography

Caitriona Meagher
"Untitled" (Griffith)

Also nominated:

Ross McDonnell "Product"
(DIT)

Lorraine Sherry "Hunchback
Man in a Bouncy Castle"
(Griffith)

David Treanor "Conflict: in
our nature" (Griffith)

Film Script

Stephen Wright "Billy Baker
and the Tooth Fairy"
(Ballyfermot)

Also nominated:

Stephen Ryan "Pearly
Whites" (Ballyfermot)

Robert Broderick "Dancing
Connemara" (DCU)

Leon Elliot "The Silhouette"
(Ballyfermot)

Short Film

Ciaran McCabe & Andrew
Freedman "Electricity"
(DLIADT)

Also nominated:

Mark Byrne "The
Boogeyman" (BALLYFER-
MOT)

Rory Mustan "Anti-War"
(GRIFFITH)

Gary Shore "Stella And
Cowboy" (GMIT)

Media College

UCD

Also nominated:

DCU

Ballyfermot College

Trinity College

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STUDENTS SUMMER JOBS SCHEME 2002

THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL, COMMUNITY AND FAMILY AFFAIRS, MR. DERMOT AHERN T.D. invites Sponsors and 3rd level Students to apply now to participate in the Scheme, which this year will operate from 1 June to 30 September.

The purpose of the Scheme is to provide income support for less well-off students who are disqualified from claiming Unemployment Assistance.

Third level and post leaving certificate students (**who have not completed a course of study and satisfy a means test**) can work for 200 hours over a 6-17 week period and earn up to EUR770. Students from households dependent on a social welfare payment will receive an additional EUR1.30 per hour worked. This additional payment will be paid directly to the Students by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

Students who are in receipt of Disability Allowance or Blind Person's Pension may be entitled to participate in the Scheme.

Sponsors include:

- Community/Voluntary/Sporting Groups
- Charitable Organisations
- Public Bodies (Special Projects only).

All approved sponsors will be limited to a **Maximum of 10 Students**.

HOW TO APPLY

Information Leaflets and application forms are available from:

- **Social Welfare Local Offices**
- **Student Union Offices in Third Level Colleges or**
- **by writing to PO Box 3988, Dublin 1**
Phone (01-7043875/6)

Closing Date for Student and Sponsor Applications is 28 June 2002.

SPONSORS: Please note that to guarantee inclusion in the list of Sponsors, forms must be returned by **19 April 2002**

STUDENTS: Are advised to apply by **30 April 2002**, to ensure that they have a Job Certificate by **1 June**



DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL,
COMMUNITY &
FAMILY AFFAIRS



Brendan O'Connor waxes lyrically at the Student Media Awards at Vicar Street

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Beyond Brosnan

Women want him and men want to be him. He possesses more gadgets than a dominatrix and never has a hair out of place. He has saved the world more often than Bono and has killed more villains than Joel Schumacher has caped crusaders. RTE show a season of his movies virtually every year and attract good viewing figures. The name's Bond, James Bond and the question of who will succeed Pierce Brosnan in the most famous tux in movieland has become the topic of much speculation.

With the twentieth Bond movie, *Die Another Day* currently in production, EON Productions moguls have already sent their feelers out in the hunt for a successor to Navan man Brosnan, who makes his fourth and reportedly final appearance as Bond later this year. Producers Michael Wilson and Barbara Broccoli will be anxious to find a successor to the Irish actor, who has starred in the three most financially successful installments of the longest and most lucrative running movie franchise in history. As with all such hunts, EON's moguls are remaining tight-lipped as to who they have in mind. But, as usual, online speculation is rife as to who will become the sixth James Bond (if one discounts David Niven's role as the old agent in *Casino Royale*). Here's a sample of the potential and not-so potential contenders (in no particular order).

As work continues on the latest 007 adventure, the hunt for Pierce Brosnan's successor has begun. Dermot Keyes ponders on whom next will brandish the Walther PPK in her Majesty's celluloid Secret Service

required for the 007 blueprint and may need several more bouts of eyebrow arching. If he played Bond in the manner that Dalton did so well (dull, hard drinking womaniser as he written by Ian Fleming), it would be hard to find a better Bond than Clive Owen.

Jack Davenport

Best known for his role as the anally retentive, womanising Myles in the hit BBC series *This Life*, Davenport has demonstrated his ability to rib-tickle in the comedy *Coupling*. Would certainly carry the role well and since EON like to cut cost corners (one only has to look at

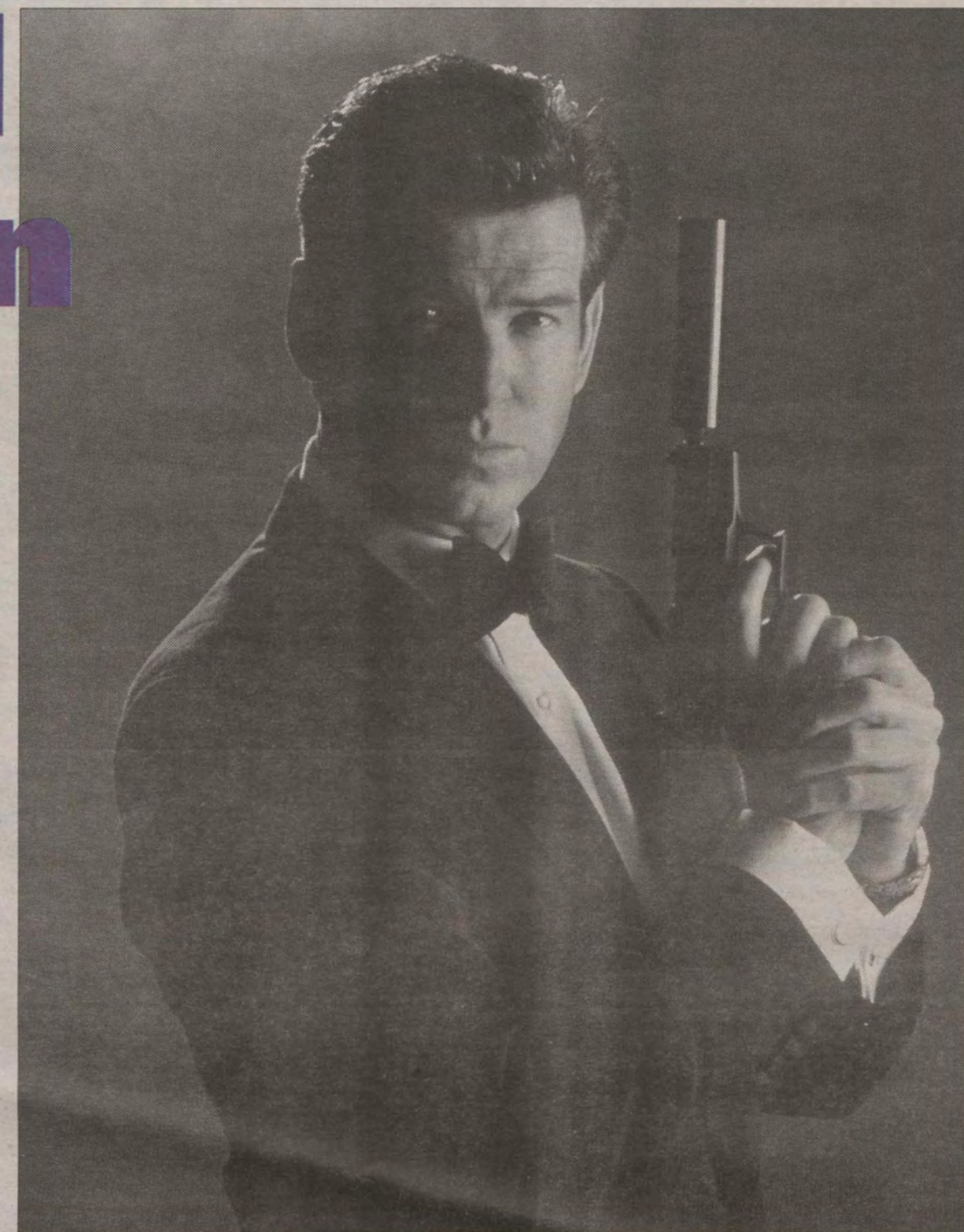


From loincloth to tux?: Russell Crowe would be a broody Bond, but his \$20 million movie fee might be too high for EON's liking.

Clive Owen

Owen, who recently lined out in *Gosford Park* and came to prominence in the super slick *Croupier*, fits the physical attributes of Bond in a way that Brosnan, Timothy Dalton and Roger Moore could not. Tall, dark and sufficiently rugged for the action scenes required for the Bond flicks, Owen has yet to perform any comedic role which is also

the lukewarm bad guys that have featured in the series since it was resurrected in the mid-90's), he could be in with a shot, albeit a small one. Given that women used to beat him up with alarming regularity in his *This Life* days, stepping up to clobber the life out of Jaws-like evil henchmen could make his Bond credentials weaker than some of the other pretenders to Brosnan's Austin Martin seat.



The name's Bond, James Bond and the question of who will succeed Pierce Brosnan in the most famous tux in movieland has become the topic of much speculation

Colin Farrell

Would the producers be brave enough to give the role of the suavest Englishmen alive to an Irishman for the second successive time? His scene stealing performance in the Joel Schumacher directed *Tigerland* won universal acclaim and heralded Farrell's rapid rise up the Hollywood talent list. His latest movie, co-starring with Bruce Willis in *Hart's War*, has been labelled the first turkey of his career, but one imagines the young Dub will not be too concerned with such lambasting given the spiraling fee he commands for each movie. Were he to take the role, he would be considerably younger than anyone who has played Bond to date, and one wonders would he wish to be type-casted so early in his career. But he would make a fantastic secret agent, though he'd have to curb the bad language he so loves!



Another Paddy in Her Majesty's Secret Service?: Colin Farrell may be a mite young as 007

LA Confidential and *Gladiator* but he's just too expensive for Wilson and Broccoli's purse strings. Would bring a presence to the role not felt since Sean Connery decommissioned his tuxedo.

Russell Crowe

There's about as much chance of Russell Crowe being the next James Bond as there is of Michael Owen signing for Manchester United. So web nerds should let go of their dream and see that EON would not fork out the millions that Crowe now commands following his spate of Oscar-listed roles. Crowe would more than cut his mustard as 007, given his infidelities with women, his well-honed tough guy skills in

Christian Bale

The man whose name has been suggested in heated pub discussions involving this reporter, Bale would make a fine Bond and probably commands a fee minus the millions that would scare EON off. Has all the necessary physical attributes for the part, can make his eyebrows dance like a tsunami when required and has also done his 'hit with the ladies' bit commendably (even if he did see quite a few of them off in

American Psycho). He also possesses the cold hard-nosed characteristics that are key ingredients of the Bond psyche. The thinking man's favourite, but will he want the part?

Were any of the above to get the part, one would be pretty pleased with Brosnan's successor. But consider Jeremy Northam, Dougray Scott, Ralph Fiennes and some actors known only for their parts in Sunday night period dramas on the Beeb and one learns that such rumour mongering will create tree-loads of copy between now and Bond 21.

But do you know what? After all these years Connery's still the man....

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The art of using Dublin's public transport

There's nothing quite like public transport in Dublin. We're all familiar with the problems – it's always late, it's like rush-hour in Tokyo on City Imps, and it's frequently filthy (Nitelink, I'm looking at you).

But like many things in Dublin, it's not the transport itself, but the people on it that make it what it is. Which is why, depending on where you get on and off the bus or DART, the experience can be so different.

Take this weekend. On Sunday, a friend got a bus from a Northside suburb into town. A few minutes into the journey, a large piece fell off the front of the bus, which the driver then drove over, and, for the hell of it, reversed back over again. Meanwhile, the occupants of the bus chatted among themselves. "I knew well that thing was going to fall off, you could tell by looking at it", and so on. Nobody actually told the driver but there you go. Nonetheless, a man got off the bus and lifted said bit of

Public transport is something which most of us have to deal with on a daily basis, and depending on the day and the route, it can be a source of amusement or murderous rage. By Janice Gaffey

bus on board, stashed it in the luggage holder, and off the bus went.

Later that day, the same friend and I caught the last DART into town from a Southside suburb, and were driven demented the whole way by a bunch of approximately ten girls, aged about nine to twelve. They played Dial-A-Ring's top ten hits on their mobiles incessantly, and in between that and swinging around the poles in the carriages, indulged in some quality name calling, which regrettably, I cannot repeat here. Enough to make you get out and walk, or as one elderly man did, hop out and run onto the next carriage.

A few weeks ago, on a bus to the suburbs, I spent the better part of an hour listening (not by choice) to a conversation between two girls

aged about 19, about one's upcoming J1 and one's previous J1. It's funny, I didn't realise that the words "like", and "d'you know what I mean" could be used so many times in the same sentence. And another day, on a bus at about 10:30 (prime Granny time, because it's when the free bus-pass kicks in) an elderly woman loudly blamed refugees for the pot-holes in the road.

The public transport experience changes depending on time of day. As I've said already, after 10 AM is when the OAP's bus pass is valid, so from that time until early evening, you can expect to have to give up your seat, (especially near a church) and listen to conversations which you may or may not be included in, about Teresa's daughter – you know, the one who had all that trouble with

her tonsils – and her upcoming wedding, the best time to get to the doctor's surgery and suchlike.

Early morning is a bit different in that, while you have to endure conditions on a par with that of a battery-farm chicken, it's generally devoid of jaw-dropping conversations. People are generally too sleepy to talk, (although awake enough to play radios or tapes at ear-shatteringly high volume on their walkman, which you will then have to listen to by proxy).

Maximum alert time is around the 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM mark, in particular if there's a school in the vicinity. You never think that an eight year old can be threatening, but by God, if you get enough of them on the top floor of a bus, it's scarier than Barbara Streisand. When they've finished pounding that day's prey – small, ginger hair, yellow fleece, prominent teeth – they can easily turn on you, and these little demons will eat you alive.

Of course, the Nitelink is a different animal altogether.



The public transport experience changes depending on time of day

The danger of groups of fear-some little kids is gone, and in its place we have large groups of marauding youths. The danger here is to look at someone too long, which will inevitably result in an outburst of "Are you looking at my girlfriend/boyfriend?" and so on. Also, no matter how drunk you may be, stay alert for vomiters or the ones that fall asleep on your shoulder. And above all else, STAY AWAKE, because it's no fun getting chucked out of the

bus in the back end of nowhere with no clue where you are, or how to get the hell out of there. On the whole, the secret to using public transport in Dublin is to avoid eye contact, and always resist the urge to laugh out loud, because you'll always be sorry. A walkman seems to provide one with a resistant forcefield, so use one at all times. And above all, stay vigilant.

A descent into madness - the trauma of the thesis

You write a proposal. You think it's great. Your lecturer takes one look at it and says that, in actual fact, The Postmodern Existentialism of Homer Simpson versus that of Peter Griffin, is not a suitable topic and you'd be better off not doing a thesis at all than to do this.

You're discouraged. But you persevere and come up with something more realistic. Then you put this proposal in a folder and forget all about it, until you realise that the deadline for this thesis is really not that far away. That's when you have the first niggling sensation of panic in the back of your head.

So you do the occasional bit of thesis related work. And you do all in your power not to stab the individuals who have done much more work, and insist on telling you about it. Occasionally you submit a few bits of paper, complete with circular coffee stains, to your lecturer. He or she asks you if you were at the altar wine before you committed these nonsensical words to paper. Panic levels rise a bit, but remain at the "Christ, I really need to sort this out, but Oireachtas Report starts in ten minutes" level.

And so it continues, with panic levels rising at intervals. And then you have that moment. It creeps up on you – it could happen on the bus, it could happen in the super-

There are those among you who have just finished, or almost finished a thesis. And there are those of you who've got it all ahead of you. But however bad it gets, remember one thing. It can, and will get worse, reveals Janice Gaffey

market, and if you're very lucky, it could happen when you're sitting on the pot, contemplating the universe. It's what's known as a Brown Trousers moment, and it's the point at which your thesis suddenly takes over your life. You have no family, you have no friends, you are obsessed. Completely and utterly consumed by fear, panic, more fear, greater panic. You start carrying around supermarket bags for life, filled with enormous books, most of which you never read. You start harassing people for interviews for your thesis. It gets to a stage where every conversation you have (not that you have many, because you've pissed off everyone you know by talking about nothing else) begins with the words "I'm a final year student and my thesis is looking at...".

Sandwiches become the only thing between you and death. You find that you've turned into a Heffalump because you have a coffee-and-Toblerone break every hour, on the hour. You find yourself

eating things that would normally bring you out in a rash, like tomato n' prawn flavoured crisps, because they were sitting there, calling out to you, begging you to eat them. Sleep is but a distant memory, along with television, a social life and caring about your appearance. You begin to call in sick to work, and as the deadline approaches, the excuses get worse. When they don't believe that you've got anthrax, you tell them that there's been a death in the family, omitting to mention that it was seven years ago, because dammit, it still hurts.

You start to spend time in the National Library, pointlessly scanning newspapers and books for anything that might be useful. You sit in the microfilm room, beside crazy old people from Sligo who tell you that they're trying to find a map to prove that a certain field belongs to them, and not their thieving neighbours. You wordlessly help Americans who are trying to trace their ancestry, to load the microfilm onto the viewing machines, barely resisting the urge

to pound them for asking stupid questions about why you're here.

For the final week, you either stay at home to finish it, or spend the week in college, trying to finish it. If you stay at home, you emerge, blinking in an owl-like fashion two days before the deadline, and find that sunlight now burns your almost translucent skin. If you work in college, you find yourself hatching increasingly desperate plans to hide in a filing cabinet so that you can stay in overnight.

You finally get to the stage where you think, grand, I've only got to do a bibliography and put all the chapters in order in one document. And that's when the computer starts to mock you. You attempt to copy and paste items, and find that font sizes and italics and the like revert to the direct opposite of how they're supposed to be. You didn't think it possible to feel such epic levels of rage. Somebody asks if they can borrow your stapler, and you shout hysterically, "Take it! Take it all! Go on!" and start to rhino-charge the nearest brick wall.

Then comes the printing. You tell the computer to print four copies, and realise in the middle of the fourth copy, there's a glaring error, and you need to print four more copies of pages 60-62. You run to the computer, and give it instructions. In the meantime, somebody else has dared to print off a two-

page document. You scream, "Release the hounds" and chase the selfish, inconsiderate bastard from the room.

You assemble the copies and head for the binders. You ask for a five hour service and the person behind the counter says, "Can you please let go of the thesis". "No, I'm sorry, I can't do that". "We can't bind it if you don't give it to us". "You don't seem to understand. It's mine. Mine, I tell you, mine!". Eventually, you relinquish it, and the person behind the counter promptly drops it.

The Gardai are very understanding. They realise that you're under pressure, and you're unlikely to get a custodial sentence, they say. They advise you to have somebody else pick the thesis up for you. You hand in your thesis, on time and complete. Then you remember that you forgot to sign it, so you go back. You sign it. It's over. It's finally over.

Sometime later, you accompany your chums to a nearby hostelry for a refreshing beverage. You walk up to the bar. The barman says "What can I get you?" You look at him in a vacant fashion and say dully, "I'm a final year student and for my thesis I'm looking at..."

When drink is a demon

A report in the Guardian newspaper of April 10 demanded our final edition of the year included an examination of student alcohol abuse. This is a topic, which for a nation with some social expertise in this particular area never attracts the same headlines as a Bertie Bowl, the latest Beckham haircut or a Russell Crowe-inspired fracas. Quite why this is the case remains a little odd, but to attempt an explanation is not as difficult.

When heads of state are greeted by our outgoing (and probably soon to return) Taoiseach, a trip to his local and the photo-op with pint in hand is a banker. A World Cup Finals looms, and the major concern for the red-tops that adorn our news stands is whether or not the pubs will be allowed open at the veritable crack of dawn for soccer (and drink) loving punters. Our national sport is sponsored by Guinness whose financial support, while it has undoubtedly aided hurling's profile through the advertising campaigns of recent years, is entirely inappropriate in the eyes of several within the G.A.A. (including former President, Dr. Mick Loftus). And third level Ireland's social aspect is littered with drink promotions of every kind from the moment a student discards the school uniform until the days of becoming a taxpayer loom ever larger. Which brings us back to the recent article in the Guardian.

"Alcohol kills 1,400 American students a year, study says" headlined a story written by Matthew Engel. The study to which Engel refers was undertaken in the University of Boston, with its chief research instigated by Professor Ralph Hingson, who has conducted several studies in relation to alcohol abuse. Fellow researcher Mark Goldman used a chilling analogy to assess the state of alcohol abuse in the American collegiate system. "Half the World Trade Centre casualties are happening every year in our colleges," he said. The report estimates that the consequences of alcohol abuse in college was a contributory factor in 500,000 injuries and up to 70,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape during 2001. The report also estimates that 400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 have had unprotected sex as a result of drinking. A quarter of all students in the same age group also admitted to driving while under the influence of alcohol. A NBC News report quotes another researcher Kenneth J. Sher of the University of Missouri Columbia with a comment one can readily associate with. "Historically, I think

We the Irish tend to have a flippant attitude when it comes to addressing the social scourge of alcohol abuse. However, our 'happy-go-lucky' outlook on overdrinking and alcoholism in third level Ireland is far from exclusive to our shores. The DIT Independent examines the shocking results of an American report and ponders its significance in an Irish context

there has been the view that whatever college students are doing, it's not that serious a problem, it's a rite of passage," he said.

The report was among 24 such studies commissioned by the Task Force on College Drinking, a federally supported body, which is composed of college presidents, students and scientists, convened by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse. Professor Higson believes "getting the numbers out will help the public understand this is perhaps a larger problem than people might have otherwise thought".

Further statistics from the report make for disturbing reading. Over 150,000 American students develop an alcohol-related problem and between 1.2 and 1.5 per cent of students attempted to take their lives during 2001 due to drinking or drug use. In academic terms, a quarter

"A forward thinking Minister, Martin's return to the post should Fianna Fail return to power would be welcome"

of those surveyed experienced academic consequences because of drinking, which involved missing classes, falling behind on class work and experiencing decreasing grades.

So what does this mean for third level Ireland? As reported in the DIT Independent of October 2001, a conference titled 'Alcohol in Young People' was told "that the number of young students who get drunk regularly is well above the EU average". Dr. Bruce Ritson of the Alcohol Problem Service of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital told the conference, "there is clear evidence that the alcohol industry has two target groups between 11 to 15 years and established drinkers aged 16 to 24. Both of these areas are large enough to provide the industry with a sustainable return on investment". Given that the current college going generation has grown up in an unparalleled era of economic prosperity and an increasing number of secondary school students hold-

ing down part-time jobs while studying, young Irish people are drinking more than any of the previous generations of a similar age. Alcohol Project Director, Dr. Rolande Anderson said that Irish "attitudes to alcohol use must change urgently or there will be an epidemic of people seeking help for alcohol dependence in the next 10 to 20 years".

The current Government has taken steps towards instigating a national alcohol policy within third level institutes nationwide. The 'Framework for Developing a College Alcohol Policy' is described by the Department of Health as "a document to assist colleges to develop campus alcohol policies, which promote sensible drinking among students and limit alcohol-related harm on campus". DIT is unusual among the major bodies of learning in Ireland as it remains without licensed premises on any of its sites. But given the proximity of several drinking establishments within the environs of the principal sites, such a facility, though it would be (presumably) welcomed by a majority of students, is not required. However, it would hardly be a great surprise were bars to appear in the proposed northside campus at Grangegorman and the enlarged Aungier Street site on the southside in the next decade or so. That such a proposal has not featured on the election agendas of any candidates for DITSU positions in recent years is of even greater surprise. After all, if there's one way to grab a student's attention, a mere mention of the word 'alcohol' usually does the trick.

Micheal Martin has made it abundantly clear that he would like to re-assume the Health portfolio, which would seem a politically logical move by the Fianna Fail leadership as one would imagine that failure to keep a potential future leadership challenger happy wouldn't be all that clever. Should Martin return to Hawkins Street, the momentum generated by the publication of the report would increase its chances of implementation. After the Minister made his intentions clear last October, the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) welcomed the proposals out-



The Government has taken steps towards instigating a national alcohol policy within third level institutes

lined in the report. "In recent years we have seen campaigns focused on second level students and young professionals, however we are confident that through our involvement in this process, students will be made aware of the dangers of alcohol abuse," said then USI President Richard Hammond.

Words and documents are well and good, but when, or what kind of action can be taken to reduce an issue whose problems do not seem to be taken too seriously, or even provoke that much debate among the student masses? Firstly, in the DIT context, one would do well to follow the example of University College Galway Students Union, who piloted

the policy that the Department of Health envisages a national adoption of. Jonathan Byrne, the Union's Entertainments Manager said their policy on alcohol, "dictates our behaviour and our attitude towards alcohol ... for years a lot of institutions, Student Unions and clubs and societies have used free pints and free kegs as an incentive. We are no longer reliant on that, we no longer rely on sponsorship from breweries for events".

Byrne added, "we don't give away cheap alcohol and we can't give away any for free. This policy was decided upon after a study of first years (in UCG) showed that 20 per cent of them had an alcohol problem. It was then

decided to restrict the access of cheap and free alcohol to students." The restriction on alcohol promotions also applies to UCG's sports teams, who are prohibited from receiving sponsorship from alcohol companies. The policy, the first of its kind instigated by a Students Union anywhere in Ireland has, according to Byrne "had its ups and downs". He continues, "we have had to step up our quality of entertainment available to students as a result. It's quality rather than drink that we offer students".

The foundations for a healthier perspective on student attitudes to alcohol have been laid, thanks to a forward thinking Students Union in UCG and a similarly minded Health Minister. The acknowledgement by USI that a problem bordering on a future epidemic is being enticed by the continual flogging of cheap alcohol at students anxious to gain what they view as the full college experience.

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'Liars, cheats and drunks' - welcome to journalism

By Dermot Keyes

JUST a few short weeks away from becoming an actual, tax-paying journalist after my four-year stint in college at the expense of: parents/credit union loans/ taxpayers, a rather disturbing e-mail arrived in my account recently.

Laced with quotes, which drive the trade of a journalist into derision, it made my little mind ponder. Would I have been better off thinning turnips in the farming yards of south Kilkenny all this time I spent sleeping in when I should have been at lectures? Would my life have been life altered had I got that county council office job I applied for when I finished secondary school? These were just a few of the immediate thoughts that flitted through my mind when I began to read the sort of text that one does not wish to be all that aware of when on the brink of graduating. Could it be that the big bad world be really as big and bad as the darkest facets of my mind have envisaged it to be? Are journalists the veritable doo-doo of society? Are we really as bad as the soap operas have made us believe? - these clowns that possess utterly no morals whatsoever? Well, according to one Fred Allen, frankly yes! "To a newspaperman, a human being is an item with skin wrapped around it,"

he said. Ouch!

Upon discovering that one of the finest journalists of his generation committed the following to print, it made me shudder. "I have spent half my life trying to get away from journalism, but I am still mired in it - a low trade and a habit worse than heroin, a strange seedy world full of misfits and drunkards and failures." Hunter S. Thompson, a little bit handy with a piece of paper and a typewriter in his day, describing journalism as a habit harder to shake off than chasing the dragon? Crikey, what have I let myself in for? Mother Teresa, the peaceful and graceful soul that she was, described facing the press as "more difficult than bathing a leper". Mother Teresa said that? By this stage of the e-mail, sitting in a tractor cab from 9 to 5 was slowly starting to sound attractive.

But one quote stood out above all others when reading the e-mail and really made me think just how many low-lives must have made and continue to make a living in the trade. Writing in the Baltimore Sun, Gregory Kane wrote in 1997: "Somewhere along the line, many Americans relegated the media to a notch on the morality scale only slightly above that of child molesters." What happened to make Joe and Josephine Public render jour-



'Mine's a large one.' Brendan Behan, who developed a penchant for vomiting into the drawers of fellow writers when inebriated in a newsroom

nalists as depraved and utter scum to provoke such a comment? The tirade of abuse does not end here!

"A journalist is a reporter out of a job," wrote Mark Twain. The venerable T.S. Eliot said "some editors are failed writers, but so are most writers". But for bottom of the gutter comment of this article, look no further than a human being so utterly depraved of morals and professional values that he would seem to have made a perfect hack himself. "[Journalists are] a lower quality of human being, who'll do anything for a story. (...) At press awards they jeer, boo, fight, get pissed, and that's just the cream." The man in question? The simply delightful Max Clifford, who the brilliant Louis Theroux (in his excellent 'Louis meets..' series) recently confirmed all the bad things that one would

ever have thought about a snake, albeit a very clever snake like Max Clifford.

Old stories about the way that journalists conducted themselves in the olden days have been told with great reminiscence by lecturers during my college years. Tales of Brendan Behan's penchant for vomiting into the nearest available drawer in the Irish Press after a day and night on the batter made me wonder how papers ever made the stands way back when. The Borstal boy himself may be the extreme example of the drink-sozzled writer, but having heard so many tales which were bathed in liquor about so many other reporters of an age long gone, the following quote could not have been more appropriate. In an interview with the San Francisco Examiner in 1996, veteran colum-



The paparazzi: the privacy invading guttersnipes that have contributed so much to the derision of the profession of journalism

nist Jimmy Breslin regretted the passing of a bygone era. "The way I had it is all gone now," he said. "The bars are gone, the drinkers, gone. They remain the smartest, healthiest newspeople in the history of the business."

The last word deservedly belongs to the editor who was at the centre of the recent Naomi Campbell libel case. To Piers Morgan of the Daily Mirror, journalism is "full of lying, cheating, drunken, cocaine-sniffing, unethical people. It's a wonderful profession".

So by the time I had scrolled down, clicked out of my e-mail and pondered the imponderable, had I changed my mind, had I reached a watershed in my professional life even though I'm not really a professional yet?

No, no, no. The world needs us supposed degenerate poo-on the shoe types to expose the scams, the shams, the dopes, the gropes, the good, the bad, and the indifferences of the world we live in. I'm more than happy to enter their number. Sure if the likes of us weren't around, what would the world have to talk about?

* The quotes used above can be located at www.epnworldreporter.com, a new online magazine written for correspondents and freelance journalists worldwide.



Woodward and Bernstein, as captured by Redford and Hoffman in 'All The President's Men' made the kind of history us aspiring hacks can but dream of

By Janice Gaffey.

It's that time of year again when exams loom large on the horizon and the thoughts of the average student should be turning to study (in other words, attempting to cram a year's worth of work into three weeks).

But we all know that it doesn't work quite like that, and the excuses to avoid the books get worse as the exams draw closer.

The DIT Independent presents the definitive list of reasons not to hit the books.

1. The fridge needs to be defrosted.
2. Touched by an angel is on the telly. (This works equally well with Cagney and Lacey, Murder, She Wrote, or A Prayer at Bedtime.)
3. The flowerbeds in the

The things we stoop to...

park near your house need to be weeded.

4. You suddenly need to see what the carpet in your flat looks like under the six inches of crap that currently resides on it.

5. You need to create an intricate study timetable detailing your movements down to the minute for the next six weeks, have it laminated and stick it on the wall over your desk. Naturally, you never use it. It's impossible to study without a jam-jar full of differently coloured pens and highlighters.

Likewise, a cardboard accordion file for all the

notes you frantically photocoped. Again, none of these things will be used.

6. It's a cruel trick of nature that the sun always shines while you study for your exams.

However, working on your tan (even if it's bright but freezing) is a good reason not to study, and to make yourself feel like you might be achieving, bring a book with you, but it's important not to open it.

7. It's been sixteen years since your last confession, and you need to make peace with the lord.

8. You call all of the people that you spend the rest of

the year avoiding and invite them for a pint. It's important to build bridges.

9. You need to put up shelves in the kitchen, regardless of the fact that you've never held a hammer in your hand before now.

10. You need to count how many freckles you have on your right forearm.

11. It's time to make a list of all the things you're going to buy when you start earning money again.

12. It's lunchtime/ dinner-time/snacktime/cup-of-tea time. Altogether, these can take all day.

13. Your flat would look so much nicer if it was paint-

ed top to bottom. A milder form of this is to decorate it by sticking post-it notes everywhere, telling yourself to do some work.

14. Find out where your exams are being held and plan the quickest route to the venue.

Plan for all eventualities and cycle or walk past several times per day, just to make sure that there's no diversions in place.

15. Watch your favourite movies with French subtitles to see if you have a notion of what's going on.

16. Cook three course meals at dinnertime, involving meat and three veg.

whereas normally you exist on chicken flavoured noodles or toasted cheese sandwiches.

17. Give the Stairmaster 2000 you bought a year ago another chance. Maybe if you stay on it long enough, it might start to work. 18. Take a linguaphone course and see if you can learn Japanese in time for the World Cup.

19. Start buying lottery tickets and entering every competition you seen in papers and magazines. Alternatively, buying a jumbo book of crosswords/wordsearch puzzles.

20. Make lists of things you can do to avoid studying and check that each one of them is suitably distracting.

IrishPlayer.com gamezone

Game Title: Ico
Format: Playstation 2
Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment Europe
Rating: 3+

Ico is a brand new puzzle adventure game to come from Sony. It harks back to the days when text based games ruled. The story follows a young boy who has been locked up in an isolated castle because his village people thought he was cursed. Upon reaching there he encounters a girl clad in white who is being haunted by shadow beasts. So the aim of the game is simple. Grab the girl's hand and drag her around the castle as you try to overcome obstacles and puzzles in order to escape.

Throughout the game you will encounter shadow beasts trying to take the girl away from you. You must fend them off or they will drag your companion underground. This game contains a smattering of action but it too few and far between. The graphics in the game are excellent with detailed environments and excellent use of lighting and shadows to build up an atmosphere of emptiness. The sound is also used to great effect for this, with footsteps echoing throughout the structure and little sound throughout. The controls are fairly straightforward, just hold on to the girl and bring her with you. You will be going mad at some of the puzzles which can take ages to figure out.

Ico is a game for those of you with plenty of patience. I personally couldn't get into the game that much, finding many parts frustrating if anything. But it looks beautiful and the environments have been well constructed in many of the physical puzzles, and those of you who can sit through the game will find it an enjoyable gaming experience.

Game Title: Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons Of Liberty
Format: Playstation 2
Publisher: Konami
Rating: 15+

It's been 3 years in the making and has had a budget behind it to rival those of many Hollywood movies, but Solid Snake has finally returned. A brand new Metal Gear killer has been unveiled, and while in transport it has been hijacked by terrorists. If they get their hands on it they will have the most powerful mobile weapon on the planet, and you have been drafted in to make sure that it doesn't happen. So get ready for plenty of sneaking around and covert operations as you try to avoid detection and save the world.

There has been plenty of hype behind the game, and in fairness much of this is warranted. The game has an excellent storyline, better than most movies I have seen recently. Those of you who did not play the original are catered for, with a whole extra game just for you to get to grips with the controls as the intelligence officer Gaiden.

The graphics in this game are easily the best on the console, with immaculately detailed locations within the ship, a slick interface and the most subtle of effects. I've never seen seagulls dive-bombing people purely so that they can hit them with their droppings in a game, but it seems to happen in this title. The sound is equally brilliant, with an epic soundtrack, brilliant speech and realistic sound effects. As for the controls, if you have played the original you will be at home, and even if you haven't there is a tutorial game in there for you. But all in all, it is much longer than the original and one of the best games out on the PS2.

Game Title: Halo
Format: Xbox
Publisher: Microsoft
Rating: 15+

Mankind has begun to colonise space and as usual we've stepped on somebody's toes. The Covenant, a fanatically religious coalition of alien races sees mankind as a huge threat and has launched an all-out strike, destroying nearly every human colony in the galaxy. In the last battle, the human fleet was completely devastated except for one ship, the Pillar of Autumn. It made a blind jump and came out of hyperspace at a distant planet orbited by an artificial ring world.

In the game you play the role of the Master Chief, a cyborg soldier and the last SPARTAN-II in the galaxy. You have been entrusted with the ship's intelligence and ordered to destroy the threat of the Covenant before Earth can be targeted. So suit up soldier because you are in for plenty of action in this brilliant first person shooter. You get the chance to use a huge variety of high explosive weapons and alien plasma rifles, as well as hijacking alien craft or riding around in a giant human tank.

The graphics in the game are superb, with a half minute loading time at the start of each mission. That's it for the mission, which encompasses a huge stage ranging from locations such as ice covered valleys to underground bunkers and even alien ships. The sound in the game is also excellent, with great speech, sound effects and good use of music to build up the atmosphere. The controls do take a while to get used to on the Xbox pad, but after an hour playing you should be a hotshot. Got some mates left? Four of you can play head to head or co-operatively in the variety of multi-player modes. Halo is the title that you should own if you have bought a Xbox or are planning to get one. If you don't you are missing the best launch title for the console and a brilliant gaming experience that has a gripping storyline. Oh and did I forget to mention that you can hook up to 4 consoles for 16 player action!

'As I say, fantastic!'

By Dermot Keyes

WHEN one's head has been split down the middle by pain at 11 o'clock on a Saturday night, one normally contributes such a condition to the cursed liquor. But thankfully this reviewer could contribute such agonies to nothing other than cranium cracking laughter when bearing witness to the brilliance of 'Après Match Raw', which recently ended its short pre-World Cup run at Vicar Street.

The inspired comedic trio of Ristead Cooper, Gary Cooke and Barry Murphy have managed to keep alive an act which first came to life as a short three-minute sketch during RTE's coverage of the 1996 European Championships.

Back then, Murphy and Cooper provided Joe Public with the delights of Frank (remember that cardboard box on his head?) and Jim Beglin, while the genial Dunphy-esque rantings of Cooke had yet to make the airwaves.

Jaunts on RTE's Champions League coverage saw the triumvirate grow in stature and screen-time before their takes on football punditry's finest reached a new level during the 1998 World Cup.

Four years later, as another World Cup adventure awaits, the men that



The inspired comedic trio of Ristead Cooper, Gary Cooke and Barry Murphy

have made us laugh with reckless abandon have been at it again at a venue which suitably caters their act.

The quality that has made Après Match so watchable for so long has been its constant overhauling of the characters we have come to know and love. Bill O'Herlihy lamenting his loss of work on 'The Premiership,' Eamon Dunphy's hatred of live link-ups that go wrong on 'The Last Word' and David O'Leary's exclamation that Jonathan Woodgate was fortunate that his community service was not served in the Asian community (ouch) were sadistically laugh inducing.

The introduction of new characters such as Cooper's superb take on Pat

Kenny (complete with over-dialogued questioning and robotic movement) along with Cooper and Cooke's interpretation of Tom McGurk and George Hook demonstrated the originality and brilliance of a show whose two-hour duration positively danced along.

There were a number of commercial breaks engineered while wigs were changed and these worked a treat. Superb piss takes of a well-known vodka commercial starring Ray Wilkins and Mark Lawrenson along with an outstanding parody of Michael Ryan (presenter of hick-heavy RTE show 'Nationwide') made the scene transitions virtually seamless.

But star billing was reserved for Barry Murphy's stint as the silver-follicled Gunther, whose labeling the Irish as 'Pixie Focks' along with his jibing of the boys in green was pure class. Undoubtedly the best value for money that the licence holders of Ireland have ever received from Montrose.

'Après Match' remains fresh, fabulously funny and a howl of immeasurable proportions. Hopefully it will not be too long before the trio tread the boards again. Japan and Korea cannot come soon enough!

Game Title: Project Gotham Racing
Format: Xbox
Publisher: Microsoft
Rating: 3+

The demi-sequel to the excellent MSR on the Dreamcast has arrived, but do not be fooled; there is no Batman in sight. Instead, there are 25 high performance cars including the Ferrari F50, Aston Martin Vanquish, Porsche Boxter and the new Mini for you to race around in. Four cities have had their city centers accurately recreated for your racing pleasure, being Tokyo, London, New York and San Francisco. The game is different to your typical racer in that it is not necessarily about how fast you win a race, but more by how you do it. To this effect, the game incorporates style points called kudos which will be awarded to you as you pull off skids. Crash and you lose them. Don't and you unlock some pretty cool cars. There is plenty of challenge in there for you too, with both normal races and points challenges, giving you plenty of solo game play. Once you have some mates over, you can split the screen and have four of you going against each other.

The graphics are excellent, with great looking cars and photo-realistic recreations of the cities. The sound is also top notch with great sound effects and a soundtrack featuring the Chemical Brothers, Stereo MCs and Gorillaz. You can even play your own music during the game by copying tracks onto the console. The controls are straightforward to get to grips with, although learning to take corners to best effect can take a while.



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The force is strong with this one

Unpack those suitcases, return that suntan oil and cancel the order on that skimpy thong. With the imminent release of possibly two of the biggest blockbusters this summer should be spent in front of the big screen instead of under sunscreen.

Of course one of the movies one must refer to is the latest installment in the Star Wars saga, which is due for release on May 16th. The follow up to that rather disappointing Phantom Menace, (sorry Ed) Attack of the Clones, does look a million times better on the trailers and all the talk around Tinseltown lends to the same verdict. Star Wars is back on track. So what can we expect from the pen of Mr. Lucas? What I'm looking forward to seeing most is the Jedi knights in full-scale battle against the separatists, later to become the Galactic Empire. I'm talking an ESB melt down with lightsabers flailing wildly under the call of battle. Of course this film features a young-enough to fight Jedi Master Yoda actively participating in the struggle against evil so he has to be able to do some pretty incredible fighting.

A certain Mr. SL Jackson (Mace Windu) is prominent in this flick as well and there is nothing that he likes better than following "the path of the righteous man". To satisfy his own delight at landing a role in this movie, he asked the flannelled one could he have a purple lightsaber, thereby adding a new hue to the laser sword pastel. In the online trailers we don't see too much of the "second baddest person in the whole universe" (his words). But one has it on good authority from online sourcing that he is one



of the most impressive characters in the film.

One must wonder about Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) deep into his Jedi training, under the guidance of Obi Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), who as you all know over came a serious drug affliction on the streets of Glasgow in Trainspotting, to train the ill-fated boy. Will he turn to the dark side in this episode or does he have much good in him still?

Alas the bad news for all is that the extremely annoying Jar Jar Binks is also planning a return with his unique brand of anti-comedy, so I suppose try to take him with a pinch of salt. As is customary with a film like this, the World Wide Web is inundated with site after sites devoted to scavenging information on this film. To put a search on Star Wars alone will give you more hits than four Swedish blondes called Abba. I have searched but a few out of many and all seem to carry the same feeling, despite all the hype and the pressure piling due to the failure of the last film, Attack of the Clones is getting the must go and see recommendation. After all what is one day in the sun compared to millions of light years away in a galaxy far, far away!

The other movie, which simply must be viewed this summer, is the Hollywood adaptation of Marvel Comics

Eoin Murphy previews what awaits cinemagoers during the summer ahead

Spiderman. You can call him 'Web head,' 'Web slinger,' or good old 'Spidey,' but that blue and scarlet hero is dangling on to our screens at a cinema near you. As Peter Parker, Toby McGuire plays the alter ego of Spiderman, last seen in the Cider House Rules and the always-stunning Kirsten Duntz will play the love of his life, Mary Jane. In this movie, director Sam Raimi traces the birth of Spiderman and his rise to heroic heights when he gets his powers after being bitten by a radioactive spider in a lab.

If M. Night Shylaman's Unbreakable taught us nothing else, and it didn't, no super hero is complete without a super villain, hence the appearance of a comic strip great. The Green Goblin will be seeking to destroy humanity in this adaptation and is played by the inspired casting of William Dafoe. Among the big appeals of this movie is the use of CGI on Manhattan where the movie was filmed. We shall see the Goblin pumpkin bomb his way around the New York skyline chased by our eponymous hero only thanks to the computer wizardry of CGI. Having seen the trailer online, one can only describe what the artists have done on this movie as absolutely breathtaking. One must admit having reservations about the transfer the magic of Spiderman from comic to cinema reel but it looks like it has been mastered. In fact

this film should have been released earlier only for the devastating events of September 11th which forced the movie into a re-write as the World Trade Centre played a major role in the conclusion of the flick.

Not being the greatest Star Wars fan in the world this is the film that I will be saving up to go and see five times.

These are the two major

releases this summer but what else can we expect to see this summer that's movie related? At long last we will get to see the trailer for The Matrix: 'Reload,' which is due for release in late June and promises to be absolutely mind-boggling.

The film that has had more problems than the Manson family has finally finished production and select cuts are being prepared for the cinematic trailer. If you loved the first film then you will be queuing beside me to see the second one so the release of the trailer will be our first glimpse at the magic that awaits us. Speaking of trailers, The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers trailer will

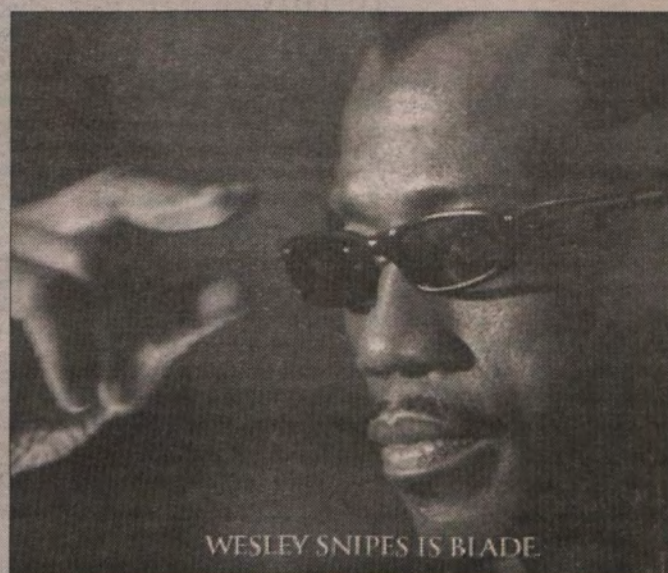
be released this summer. I'm not talking of the rather tiny and obscure trailer that is circulating the internet at the moment, I'm talking about the five minute featurette that accompanies the DVD of the first movie that will also be released mid June.

The second installment of what promises to be the greatest movie trilogy of them all is due for release this Christmas. So why pine away in Ireland due to the prospect of another dull and damp season? I for one am looking forward to the traditional terrible whether as it will give me an excuse to stay indoors.

Still in cinemas:

Blade II is a leave-your-brain-in-the-lobby action movie of the highest quality as Wesley Snipes does battle with vampires and mutated vampires who want to kill all the unmutated vampires and then kill Blade because he's a vampire too! Confused? Don't concern yourself with the plot line - this is fun, fun, gory fun all the way and one would never have envisaged Luke Goss finally seeing his question of 'When will I, will I be famous' being answered in this way. Occasionally stomach churning fun that will have you baying blood for Blade III, which already seems inevitable.

It doesn't matter if The Mummy Returns sucked every which way last summer, as the most electrifying man in sports entertainment has saved the franchise thanks to more high quality B-movie fun in The Scorpion King. The Rock stars as the most fearsome warrior to ever traverse the deserts as he kills pretty much every body, indulges in a little dialogue ("I've come for the girl and your head.") and opens a big can of whup-ass as only he can against the forces of evil. This is great, brainless fun and even the most cynical of minds could not but enjoy this film. Note the credit that WWF boss Vince McMahon receives at the end of the movie, which is laced with the musical strains of 'Smack Down,' McMahon's pseudo-sport cash cow.



Blade II: this is fun, fun, gory fun all the way

citysounds

By Laurence Mackin

ONCE again the academic year has drawn to a close, and with it the inevitable musings and perennial trials of exams and essays.

It is also a time when people will be looking back over what they have achieved over the course of the annus academia, and how they made the world a better place.

This being my final year, a wistful and somewhat romanticised image of DIT is starting to emerge in my mind, and I am sure the same is true of our outgoing student body representatives.

Now is the time when they will look back and think about how much of a good job they did throughout the year, and how they helped make DIT a better place for students and staff.

That is the problem with retrospectives.

They tend to be overly romantic and ever so slightly twinged with a shade of rose.

I have been a student in Aungier St. for four years and will go away with a favourable view of the college, like a mischievous little monkey that I used to

keep, who was forever making a mess in my flat. But still, I was sad to see him go, when the stupid animal rights activists took him away to be imprisoned in the zoo.

But, despite the teary eyes, I can still critically see the many problems that exist in DIT (and with the monkey) and the areas in which it lacks, as well as excels, and I am hoping that the incoming and outgoing Student's Union staff do the same. I wonder just how many will be putting their time spent in the Union on their Curriculum Vitae?

And I also wonder whether their successors learn from their mistakes and perhaps get their priorities in some semblance of order?

For instance, when the Rag Ball lumbers ominously on the horizon will they again decide to go for a loss-making extravaganza, or use the money to, say, organise a crèche for DIT students. Could 71,000 Euro cover a crèche's costs for nine months?

Obviously, there are many people within the Union who do very fine work, which goes unnoticed for

the most part, in particular the permanent officers and the office managers.

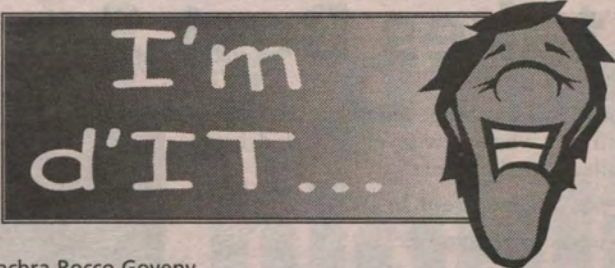
But a litany of events which were badly organised and made substantial losses, beginning with the Halloween Ball and culminating in the Rag Ball, displayed only a rugged determination not to learn from previous mistakes, and some misplaced belief that it would all come good in the end.

But it did not. It ended badly with that most oft-quoted figure of 71,000 Euro.

But every action has a subsequent and equal reaction, and so every mistake must have a result.

So who was held accountable and who suffered as a result of this? Months after the event itself and at the end of an academic and fiscal year, who is covering the cost for the Rag Week debacle and who is being held responsible? Answers on a postcard.

Email: city_sounds@hotmail.com



By Fiachra Rocco Goveny

Oh it's that wonderful time of the year! The summer! But this is not without its challenges and before you can relax and enjoy the balmy summer days sipping spritzers on the balcony you have one tremendous hurdle to overcome. That's right sweeties, you have to acquire an entirely new wardrobe. It will be a long and arduous road, but afterwards you will reap the benefits, and have enormous satisfaction in knowing that you look fockin fabulous. But, I'm not going to give you any tips this time around. I have slaved over a hot laptop every month this year trying to educate you ungodly masses into the niceties of the social maelstrom of which I am king. So, now what I want to do is let you have a go yourselves. I think it is time that you stepped out onto your own two Prada-clad feet and picked your own summer wardrobe. I know it may be a big step for you, and I am sure you have thought about nothing else for the past few months, but now is the time to put what you have learned au moi to the test. I will, however, give you some advice. It's not like I'm some big fascist leader or anything.

Firstly, do your research and do it well. Read up on all the magazines and find out what is in. There is nothing, and I mean nothing, worse than stepping out for brunch in last season (or, god forbid, last year's) colours. I cannot stress this enough. For the few gurus that exist like moi these things come naturally like a sixth sense or good skin, but for all the rest of you it must be learned. Watch what the celebs are wearing, and the clever thing is to look stateside and see what is heading our way before it hits these shores. Then you can beat everyone else to it and be the first one with the Blahnk Afghan headscarf.

Secondly, if you don't understand or are confused then get some help. Personal shoppers are a true godsend and can guide you through all the best collections and pick out

what is perfect for you. If you don't know (and you probably don't) then leave it in the hands of the experts. I mean, they practically pay for themselves. Otherwise you will end up making a fool of yourself in some gothic nightmare or other which was in, like, last December 14th through 28th.

Thirdly, timing. Timing is quintessential. Don't wear shades the first time the sun breaks through the clouds. Wear them on the head until a truly sunny day bursts forth and then allow to slip over the eyes. Don't buy the summer wardrobe in the first week, and then have to go a full month wearing what was in the windows in the first few days of May. Have a good look around, decide what is good from everything (and for fock's sake try it all on), and pick what best suits you. Again, personal shoppers can solve all these problems in a bat of an eye.

Fourthly, don't fake what you don't know or have. Do not rely on tans in a bottle. For god's sake just go to the Riviera for a week or two, get the real thing, and then sustain on the sun-bed over regular intervals. Don't worry about the UV rays, your sunglasses will take care of that nicely. Also, if you've got to lose that extra weight, and you probably do, then it simply has to go. It's not that hard, and it's nothing that a few sessions in a gym with a personal trainer and a nice tofu diet won't fix. Membership is practically for nothing these days and they will even take it out of your account by direct debit. I simply love the convenience of consumerism.

I think that is enough for one month. I know I pushed you all a bit, and maybe I tried to teach you too much in just one year, but I'm sure you have all enjoyed it. I feel like a Buddhist Master or something. Good luck with your new wardrobes and remember, once you look fantastic you are beyond reproach. So for the last time mes amis, au revoir.

FRG

Best of luck to all students in their forthcoming exams!



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VdeP takes Best Society Award

The DIT Societies Awards, recently held in Chief O'Neill's, Smithfield were widely hailed as a great success. The major winners on the night were:

Best Society

St Vincent de Paul – Aungier Street

Based on the activities over the year with the Oliver Bond Homework club and fundraising of almost 4000. Almost doubled the figure from last year. Extensive sponsorship was received from companies. Sinead Whelan president of the society thanked Students' Union and students' for their support throughout the year. "It comes as a great surprise to win but we also feel it is deserved after our hard work, its great to give some thing back to the community and help provide equal educational opportunities to a local school".

Best New/Improved Society:

DIT Sinn Fein

Again based on their activity level and extensive poster and flyer campaigns they have risen to a membership of 76. They have organised speakers such as Gerry Adams, Mitchell Mc Loughlin and David Ervine. Many of these meeting had to be held in Trinity College due to the lack large rooms available in DIT. "We are trilled to win this award and hope to do better and fulfil all our objectives next year". "If students are not willing to join or have allegiance to another party, The Sinn Fein Cuman would encourage them to set up a society of their own backing the party in question so

as to bring politics to DIT to a whole new level through debate and seminar"

Best Event In DIT:

Drama Week

An event unique to DIT in its own right where 5 individual groups came together to perform 4 spectacular shows in a professional theatre. There winners of which Kevin Street represented DIT in ISDA (Irish students Drama Awards)

Best Individual:

Eoin Rouine AIESEC Society

An individual who's hard work and dedication revived the AIESEC society in DIT. Recruiting and training members, his enthusiasm and professionalism provided the possibility of placing students in work placement all over the world. Eoin "I am shocked to receive the awards as I am aware of the competition including Sinead from SVP but it is fantastic to



Vincent de Paul won best society

see recognition from DIT for the hard work" "I would like to thank all those who helped support and develop societies and their activities during the year. Including the DIT Cultural & Social Committee, Students' Union and our sponsors for the

awards night AIB and Heineken," said Societies Organiser Anita Conway.

"Looking back on the years activity levels were quite high but by no means reaching their full potential. I cannot stress how much society life is an integral part of the third level experience and many of you are simply missing out ...there is wide variety of activities available with support from both financial and advisory point of view.

Just pop into to the Students' Union or contact Anita the DIT Societies Organiser on 4027844 or societies@dit.ie. Plans can start now for the next academic year, the possibilities are endless and so are the sponsorship opportunities, at the same time a enhancing the all important CV and having great craic doing it."



Daire O'Brien, who enthralled his audience while hosting the Societies Awards at Chief O'Neills in Smithfield

Ladies soccer back with a bang

Review of the Year

AFTER a five-year absence from competitive action, DIT returned to Ladies Soccer in emphatic fashion this year by taking the league title in their first season back.

The team first put studs to (synthetic) grass back in October when, thanks to the determination of Alice Massey in organising the team, they began training twice a week on the astro-turf pitch in Belvedere. After a few (by self-admission) suspect training sessions under Alice, they managed to cajole Cathal Brugha Street porter and resident tactical genius Stephen Dempsey to co-ordinate team affairs.

After getting a walkover against GMT, the side played their long awaited first game against St Pat's College Drumcondra. However any nerves the team may have had going into the game quickly evaporated as they completely blew Pat's away leading 4-1 by half time. With the second half a formality DIT finished easy 6-2 winners completing an auspicious start to the season.

The girl's second league match, away against the Royal College of Surgeons, proved a much tougher a game however. After a few close calls and a similar number of chances squandered the match ended in a fair 0-0 draw. In the side's final game of 2001, against

Sallynoggin at the all-weather pitch in Crumlin, DIT ensured they would see in the New Year unbeaten as they won by the single goal.

After the winter break, the girls were brought down to earth with a loud thud as they were humbled 4-1 in the quarter-finals of the Cup by reigning Premier Division and League Champions Inchicore. In a game played in gale-force winds, DIT managed to take the lead, but after holding out bravely for 20 minutes the experience of Inchicore told as they tore DIT apart.

On resumption of league football DIT had two games that would define their season. Lying in third place, with a game in hand, they were to first take on second place Tallaght and then leaders Maynooth NUI in two matches that would decide the identity of the league champions.

In the Tallaght game the side put in a solid performance as they secured a 1-1 draw. The result ended Tallaght's hopes of winning the title as, having played a game more, only a win would have kept them in it.

The final game of the league season against Maynooth would therefore be the decisive match as it would determine the League winners. Maynooth lay two points ahead of DIT so only needed a draw. DIT however had to win. After a cagey start

and some fine saves from keeper Triona Burke, DIT managed to gain composure and their midfield began to take control of the game. After a period of pressure the first goal finally came through

Ellis McGrath. However despite looking comfortable as they neared half-time the side suddenly found they would have it all to do again as Maynooth equalised through a well-taken set-piece.

But instead of collapsing after half-time DIT came out in cavalier fashion as they were determined to regain the lead they needed to become champions. And in the 65th minute they finally did so with a goal from Grainne Warren. From then on DIT were pushed into their own box as Maynooth threw everyone forward in search of the one goal they needed. With Ciara Carolan, Rachel Dooley, Alice Massey and Debbie Burke in resilient form at the back they managed to hold out until the final moments. However with only minutes remaining Massey was adjudged to have taken down a Maynooth striker in

the box and the referee pointed to spot. But incredibly the Maynooth striker buckled under the pressure and smacked the cross bar. After holding out for the six minutes of injury time DIT finally capped a glorious return to Ladies football by being crowned champions.

The DIT team which played in the final match was:

Triona Burke (Cathal Brugha St); Debbie Burke (Cathal Brugha St); Ciara Carolan (Cathal Brugha St); Alice Massey (Cathal Brugha St); Rachel Dooley (Bolton St); Sinead Spring (Cathal Brugha St); Siobhan Glennon (Cathal Brugha St); Emma Reilly (Cathal Brugha St); Ellis McGrath (Bolton St); Grainne Warren (Bolton St); Laura McAfferty (Mountjoy Square)

Subs: Ann-Marie Hand for T Burke The team would also like to thank the missing panel: Orla Berrill, the star keeper who ran away to England on holidays!

Dione Keenan, who was sick in bed with the flu. Sarah Kerrigan, who broke her knuckle before we even got started, but was there in spirit! Alice Doyle who had some excuse about working! Niamh McDonnell, Orna Murphy and Marie-Therese Tomas who were all swimming! And another 20 or so girls that were there at the start and then just disappeared off the face of the earth!

The team also want to thank absolutely everyone who was there at one stage or another, but especially those who survived till the end and of course particularly star of a coach Stephen Dempsey.

Whistle Blowers



Second Class Sporting citizens

THE emergence of reputable ladies football line-ups in recent years has helped redefine the role of women within the traditionally male dominated GAA. Alas, the original and persistent problem that has countered this transition has been plain, old-fashioned male prejudice.

The past role of women in the GAA prevails. The initial stereotype conjures images of the middle-aged women preparing trays of 'hang sangwiches' in the parish hall, eagerly awaiting the victorious group of starving men from the nearby pitch. Another role would be involve the 'Jersey Washer', who took tremendous pride in sitting by her kitchen window watching her trophies, 1 right through to 24, blowing in the wind. This, of course, was following hours of heartbreaking work removing the dirt and blood with her bare hands and soap.

Another common input of women into the GAA has come from 'Player's Girlfriends' who stand side by side, almost united in pride and glory as their men do them proud. Many watch with great interest, and become dedicated supporters. Others, however, are oblivious to the nature of the game and find it difficult to clap their hands and send text messages from their mobiles at the same time. And last but not least, we have the loyal lone female supporter, more often than not a childhood tomboy. She travels near and far, in all weather conditions, screams and shouts until her voice has become nothing more than a whisper and finds it her duty to inform the surrounding crowd who the next substitute is and her views on the decision.

But a new era has dawned, times have changes and so too has the GAA. With an audience of 134,000 tuning into TG4 for the 2001 All-Ireland Ladies Football final; the highest for any sporting event watched on TG4 during that year, it would appear that interest towards the sport has grown. Last year's championship was proof positive of the high standard obtained in the vibrant game of Ladies Football, with numerous counties coming to the fore.

The skill evident in many of last year's championship matches could be rated against any of those in the male codes. A greater degree of accuracy prevails in the Ladies game because of the lower levels of strength involved in their game. As a consequence, the ball is not kicked as far and therefore accuracy of passing becomes an integral part of the game. This is in contrast to that of recent men's team's style, whereby accuracy in passing has been swapped for a more macho approach to the game, physical superiority apparently meaning far more. The rule on physical contact in Ladies football permits a more flowing game, with fewer stoppages due to frees. But no matter what the feminists say, the game will always struggle to attain the same level of enthusiasm as the boys attract. There are fewer numbers of women playing football than men and nowhere near as much interest generated for the Ladies game.

Why? The GAA is still a male-dominated organisation and realistically, more men than women watch the sport. However, great advances have been made in recent times to bridge this gap in both games and the changes in the role of women in the GAA have been parallel come alongside massive changes within the organisation itself. Firstly, the establishing of the rebellious player's union - the GPA, secondly we have the reconstruction of headquarters into a top class stadium and now we have cards on the table to perhaps even open HQ it to other sports, maybe even host the European Championships in 2008. All these factors are combining to drag the GAA into the modern era of sport. And so, my friends, the images of the 'Sangwich Makers', the '(un)Interested Girlfriends', the 'Jersey Washers' and the 'Loyal Supporter' fade away as a new, more dominant force comes into the picture - the 'Player'.

Niamh Egan

McGee's speech proves Sports Awards highlight

By Miguel Delaney

WHILE DIT's basketball team proved the big winners at this year's DIT Sports Awards this year, winning the Club of the Year Award and providing a DIT All-Star in the shape of Dermot Kavanagh. However, their achievements were overshadowed on the night by a memorable oration by guest speaker, the 'memory man' Jimmy McGee.

Although looking physically weak after a recent bout of ill health, McGee did not let that impair an invigorating speech as he got the ceremony rolling with a trip through a career packed with great sporting memories.

Following his introduction by DIT Sports Council Chairperson Declan Glynn, McGee made a reference to his "alleged recent death," sending the crowd into fits of laughter with a series of anecdotes and jokes from his many years in sports reporting. McGee also paid homage to the many gifted athletes present as well as providing his own beliefs on what exactly makes a top sports star.

The serious business of the evening began with the presentation of the evening's first awards.

First up were the DIT students who had been granted scholarships the previous year, namely Stephen Gray, Niamh Egan, Peter Dunne, David Harrison, Dessie Keegan and Gay McKelly.

Organisers and clubs also received special mentions for the hard work put in and success achieved throughout the year. Those mentioned were Ciaran McKenna for Badminton, Keith McGee for

Basketball, Bernie Cummins for Caving, David Flynn and Alice Massey for Ladies Soccer.

There were also special awards for the DIT Sub Aqua Club and Bob Coggins of the DIT Karting Club.

The Sub Aqua club was lauded for its impeccable safety record and ability to consistently compete with other clubs in the rest of the country.

The club, one of the first of its kind when established in the 1970s, is active 12 months of the year and runs one of the best diet clubs in the country as well as achieving success in both hockey and underwater rugby.

Coggins meanwhile was praised for his hard work in getting the Karting club back on its feet after the annus horribilus that 2000/2001 proved to be.

Mr Glynn acknowledged Coggins for his excellent "business brain" as well as his tireless work in campaigning for the club and "increasing its profile and reputation".

His organisational skills ensured that the club was able to successfully defend the

All-Ireland Championship, an event they have won for four years in a row. In his speech Bob was quick to mention the work of his fellow club members Ken Gallagher and Brian Sinnott.

The night then got even better for the DIT Ladies Soccer team and captain Alice Massey as they won the Most Improved Club Award.

The team was the first such ladies soccer team in DIT for five years and on their first season back won the League

(see full report). They remained unbeaten throughout the League campaign, with their only defeat of the year coming in the Cup against eventual winners Inchicore. Mr Glynn commended the club for "leading the way for Ladies in DIT".

The most esteemed award went to basketball club named as Club of the Year. During the season the club were crowned both ICBA A men's Champions and ICBA A Women's semi-finalists.

The society is one of the biggest in the Institute with 60 participants, two men's teams and two ladies'.

The final DIT awards of the night were for those students who excelled in their chosen fields – the prestigious All-Star Winners.

These were Fiona McGlenn for Badminton, Dermot Kavanagh for Basketball, Dessie Keegan for Handball, Chloe Mulvihill for Judo and Mark Ryan for Golf.

Each of the five are worthy winners and in their young careers have already proved ultra-successful, all representing Ireland and winning numerous accolades at international levels.

The night then finished up with a special last presentation for "Ireland's premier sports commentator" Jimmy McGee. The Memory Man concluded the night perfectly, encapsulating the Corinthian spirit of the ceremony, saying, "congrats to the winners but without the competitors there would be no such thing as winners".



DIT Basketball celebrate winning the club of the year at this year's DIT Sports Awards



DIT Karting 2001's Bob Coggins picks up his Club Executive of the Year award from Jimmy Magee. Also pictured is Declan Glynn, Chairman of the DIT Sports Council

Basketball's triumphant term

Review of the year

By Sarah Graham

After clinching the ICBA Men's All Ireland Colleges League DIT Basketball club was a worthy recipient of the DIT Club of the Year award, in its first year as an all DIT club.

The first major college competition of the year was the ICBA Freshers tournament, held in Maynooth College on the 24th and 25th of November and the Women's tournament held in UL the following weekend. The Mens' Freshers team reached the Final and on their way beat DCU, RCSI, Maynooth College and UL only to meet archrivals Cork IT in the final.

DIT performed admirably

with Ian Barrett and Diarmuid Madsen controlling the show in the first quarter, but it was Cork IT that went on to triumph.

Both the mens and womens teams qualifying for the All-Ireland Colleges Finals in February. The women did so with resounding home and away wins over Inchicore (65-24) and Carlow. Unfortunately losses to Cork IT (45-48) and Tralee IT in the ISSA League ended their campaign in that league.

The Men's Team began their season with wins over Tallaght IT, (72-62), Carlow IT and Inchicore (84-12) in the ICBA League. A post Christmas trip to Tralee IT for the ISSA League fixture and to Limerick IT for the ICBA Cup Quarter Final

proved the team was not invincible however. Narrow defeats in both games put them out of the Cup and meant that they had to remain unbeaten in the ISSA League to make the finals.

Luckily excellent victories over Cork IT (48-59), Waterford IT (46-54) Carlow IT and a playoff win over Tralee IT booked The Men's teams place in the Finals in early March.

The ICBA All Ireland College League Finals were held in March. With both Mens and Womens Teams College teams participating expectations were high within the club. DIT and St Pats kicked off the first women's Semi-final. It turned out to be an exciting affair with both teams evenly matched

through out the whole game. Strong performances by Alice Heffernan and Cathy Molloy kept DIT in the game right to the end but St Patrick's College scraped through to the Final by an eventual winning margin of six points. The Men's team had slightly better luck in their semi-final Vs NUI Galway.

With Danny Bates running the show at point guard and strong play by Dave Harrison and team captain Dermot Kavanagh ensured that DIT progressed to the Final Vs UCC with a score line of 70-50. The Final was a tense game. DIT raced to a 10-point lead in the first quarter. Jerome Fouquet ensured that DIT maintained their advantage to clinch its first trophy.

The following month the men's team travelled to Galway to play Tallaght IT in the Semi-final of the ISSA All Ireland League.

After comprehensively beating Tallaght both home and away in the ICBA league earlier in the year hopes were high and they were expected win and reach the final. But things didn't go to plan as Tallaght emerged victorious. Throughout the year, both Dublin League teams progressed with great conviction. An end of year loss to Swift pushed the women's team into second place behind their rivals, having topped the table for the year. Despite the disappointment, their second position ensured promotion to Division Three next year. The Men's team

progressed to the DMBB Inter cup final beating St Declans, Tempelogue and Lucan in the semi-final.

The final against Tolka Rovers proved experience can get the better of youth. Tolka Rovers stormed to a 15 point lead at half time and despite a revival in the last quarter DIT were condemned to defeat by a margin of 7 points and had to settle with runner up medals.

However, after a phenomenal victory over Trinity College clinched the League for DIT. A place in the Final Fours event at the end of the month is the club's reward.



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